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Canada not to move embassy

OTTAWA (AP) — Canada has no intention of moving its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv despite a request by Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said Friday. The prime minister said Mr. Shamir must have "misunderstood" him during a 30-miaute meeting Friday morning. Mr. Shamir told reporters after the session that he talked about moving the Canadian embassy and Mr. Mulroney was "aware of our position and he will consider it." Mr. Mulroney initially refused to answer reporters' questions but finally commented on the meeting an hour later. "Our position is that the matter of the embassy is part of the comprehensive peace initiative for the entire (Middle East) region," Mr. Mulroney said.

British businessman kidnapped

BEIRUT (AP) — Brian Levick, a British businessman who has worked in Beirut for the past 18 months, was kidnapped in west Beirut on Friday. He was the second British national to be abducted in the western sector of the capital in as many days. On Thursday, Geoffrey Nash, 60, a metallurgist who works for the Lebanese government, was forced by three gunmen into a yellow car and driven off. David Miers, the British ambassador in Lebanon, confirmed reports of Levick's kidnapping and said the victim was the managing director of the Coral Oil Company in Lebanon. He said Mr. Levick was born in 1926. "He was dragged from his car by five armed gunmen, according to witnesses, Mr. Miers told the Associated Press. He said that the abduction occurred in the Raouche section of west Beirut. He said that as of midevening, there had been no demand for a ransom

King contacts Iraqi leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday contacted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to inquire about the latest developments of the military situation on the Gulf war front. King Hussein paid tribute to the "courageous stand of Iraq in the face of the Iranian aggression and stressed his confidence that Iraq will be triumphant in its war with Iran because the Iraqis are fighting a just war in defence of its land sovereignty and the dignity of Arab Nation," the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Sudan links coup plot to Iran

CAIRO (R) — Sudan has linked Iran with an alleged plot by the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood to seize power in Khartoum, the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram reported Friday. Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri cracked down on the Muslim Brothers this week and said a foreign power had tried to export its teachings through the brotherhood. He did not name the country, but Al Ahram quoted Sudanese Information Minister Ali Shammu as saying in an interview: "The country which President Numeiri referred to is Iran."

Morocco seeks U.N. role in Sahara

LA'YOUN, Western Sahara (R) — The Moroccan parliament has unanimously appealed to the U.N. to supervise a self-determination referendum in the Western Sahara. At an extraordinary session during King Hassan's first visit to the disputed area, the assembly said the Organisation of African Unity was incapable of solving the nine-year-old conflict between Polisario guerrillas and Morocco.

IRA claims 'previous' attacks on Thatcher

DUBLIN (AP) — An Irish Republican Army (IRA) leader hinted Friday the guerrillas tried to kill British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher before an Oct. 12 attempt to blow her up at Brighton's Grand Hotel. The unnamed guerrilla, identified only as a member of the outlawed IRA's ruling army council, was quoted as saying in an interview with the Irish Press daily that the Brighton bombing was "the first time an attempt on her life hit the newspapers." He declined to give any details of the reportedly abortive attempts. Five people were killed in the bombing of the hotel, where Mrs. Thatcher and her cabinet were staying during the Conservative Party's annual conference.

Nicaragua urges Indian help to end war

NEW DELHI (AP) — Nicaragua has urged India, leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, to help end the "proxy war" against it by the United States, a Nicaraguan minister said Friday. "India is the biggest democracy in the world and is in a firm position to persuade the concerned countries to halt this maddening war."

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Iraq says tank columns moving into Huwaizeh

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Friday its tank columns were advancing into the southern Huwaizeh marshlands, evicting Iranian invaders and recapturing most that region.

But the Iranians insisted in war communiques issued in Tehran that their forces were continuing battles with the Iraqis, near the Basra-Baghdad highway.

Travellers reaching here from the southern Iraqi province said that scores of jet fighters and helicopter gunships were sighted in action over Huwaizeh, while fresh reinforcements of tanks were moving into it.

Iraqi military spokesmen in war communiques issued here indicated that the Iranian attempt to establish a brigade in Huwaizeh and drive a wedge into the Basra-Baghdad highway have largely been thwarted.

Both warring sides were issuing contradictory claims, with the Iranians claiming to have taken 500 Iraqi prisoners and killed a total of 1,200 Iraqi combatants in four days of battles in and around Huwaizeh.

The Iraqis dismissed this as exaggerated, displaying on television scenes from the battlefield, which was littered with corpses of Iranian soldiers and charred military vehicles.

A war communique issued here said the Iraqi tanks were operating for the first time in an impassable region, where in three days of combat action "the (Iranian) enemy was driven back at enormous losses in lives and hardware."

The Iraqi News Agency quoted an unidentified military spokesman as "heralding that our forces have fully regained the village of Baida and completed the mop up operation in the northern edge of the Huwaizeh marshland."

He said that Iranian supply and reinforcement lines have been cut off, with Iraqi tanks and warplanes "assaulting remnants of the enemy force" within Huwaizeh.

"The military situation has now stabilised in favour of the Iraqi forces," the Iraqi spokesman said. "The Iranian units in the region (Huwaizeh) have been totally annihilated, except for the numbers that fell captive."

Later in the day, another war communique said that Iraq was intensifying air raids against "selected targets" in Iranian cities. It said without elaborating that Iraqi jet fighters struck the northwestern Iranian city of Arak and the city of Hamadan, 400 kilometres south of Tehran.

The Tehran leadership has threatened to unleash barrages of surface-to-surface missile attacks on all Iraqi cities, except the four regions holding Islamic shrines.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei reiterated the threat during a Friday prayer meeting.

As Mr. Khamenei spoke, an unidentified man in the middle of the praying crowds, with a bomb strapped to his waist blew himself up, killing six people and injuring 10 others (See page 2).

Mr. Khamenei warned that a major offensive was being planned. "This major attack, which will be a determining one, requires certain conditions and it will be launched when the conditions are right and it will not be launched now," he was quoted as saying.

The ground battle which started with an Iranian onslaught Monday came in the midst of air and rocket attacks by the two warring parties on each other's cities and towns, in violation of a moratorium on civilian shelling arranged through the United Nations last June.

The attacks on civilian targets marked a new escalation in the Gulf war which is about to enter its 55th month.

Earlier Friday, an Iraqi Information Ministry official said an explosion at the government Rafidain Bank early Thursday was caused by saboteurs and not an Iranian missile.

"We utterly deny the blast was caused by a surface-to-surface missile... the blast was due to an explosive charge," the official said. "Iran's claim was meant to raise the morale of the people inside Iran."

Police cordoned off a large area around the 13-storey building in central Baghdad, but reporters who visited the scene said the damage looked as if it had been caused by a internal explosion.

A retired police officer in the area estimated the size of the blast at around 100 kilogrammes of TNT.



Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan

JORDAN BEATS QATAR: *Qatar's Mubarak Anbar (in white) clears the ball from his country's goal before it gets to Ghassan Juma'a during a World Cup qualifier played Friday at the Sports City. Jordan won the match (1-0) through a goal scored by Issam Al Taly* (See story on page 6).

Mubarak holds talks with British Labour leaders, meets Kohl today

LONDON (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met with British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine and leaders of the parliamentary opposition Friday, the Egyptian embassy said.

No details were immediately available.

Before conferring with Mr. Heseltine, Mr. Mubarak met with opposition Labour party leader Neil Kinnock and Labour's shadow Defence Secretary Denis Healey, embassy spokesman Anwar Galal said.

Mr. Mubarak arrived here Thursday en route home from the United States and met with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He leaves for Egypt Saturday.

In Bonn, the West German government announced Friday that Mr. Mubarak and Chancellor Helmut Kohl will meet Saturday at Frankfurt airport.

Mr. Mubarak was slated to stop over in Frankfurt en route home from the United States where he held talks with President Ronald Reagan, according to a government statement.

No details of the talks were given, but the two leaders are expected to discuss bilateral relations and Middle East affairs.

Meanwhile in Tel Aviv, Egypt's top diplomat in Israel was quoted as saying Cairo will continue to press the United States to meet with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

A Reagan administration refusal to participate in such a meeting likely will put an end to the latest Middle East peace initiative offered by President Mubarak, said Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Abdul Aziz Bassiouny.

Mr. Bassiouny told the Associated Press that Egypt wants a joint Arab delegation to meet with the United States before negotiating directly with Israel to gain legitimacy and "international blessing."

"We don't want the United States to negotiate with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. We only want them to listen, to make sure for themselves that the delegation is keen to achieve peace," Mr. Bassiouny said. "Then negotiations can start directly with Israel."

If the U.S. refuses to meet such an Arab delegation, Mr. Bassiouny said, "we would be very reluctant to move into the next step and open negotiations with Israel."

Mr. Mubarak, in Washington this week, failed to secure a U.S. endorsement for his three-stage plan calling for talks between the U.S. and the joint Arab delegation, followed by talks with Israel directly and finally an international conference.

But Mr. Bassiouny, Egypt's highest ranking diplomat in Israel since the ambassador was recalled in 1982 in protest of Israel's invasion of Lebanon and the massacre of Palestinians by Israeli-backed Lebanese militiamen, said Egypt had not expected immediate U.S. approval of Mr. Mubarak's initiative.

"We are a practical people. We don't expect a quick reply to our proposal," he said. "But we hope that the United States will realise that this is a very good chance to move to solve the problem, and that a peace with (Palestine Liberation Organisation — PLO — Chairman Yasser) Arafat will be stronger than a peace without Arafat."

The Egyptian diplomat said a joint delegation would include PLO members because "all Palestinians are members of the PLO," but he added: "There are many Palestinians now who are very moderate."

The United States has refused to negotiate with the PLO until it recognises Israel.

Mr. Bassiouny also said Mr. Mubarak probably would agree to a summit meeting with Prime Minister Shimon Peres if Mr. Peres agreed to submit a border dispute to arbitration.

The dispute centres around Taba, a 1,000-square-metre stretch of Red Sea beach front that both countries claim as their own. Israel has rejected Egypt's proposal that the issue be submitted to arbitration.

"A summit meeting is not our aim. Our aim is to solve the problems," Mr. Bassiouny said. "President Mubarak will agree to meet Peres any time Peres shows he is ready to achieve real progress. So the ball is in Israel's court."

Lebanon army soldiers caught in crossfire as Falangist rift widens

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rebel Falangist militiamen with close ties with Israel seized the last position loyal to President Amin Gemayel in east Beirut Friday, and Lebanese army troops came under fire as they deployed to try to end the uprising.

And after Syria warned again it would not tolerate the four-day-old mutiny, breakaway Falangist militia commanders extended an olive branch to both the Damascus government and its Lebanese allies.

The eight breakaway commanders grouped in a so-called "emergency committee" issued a communique Friday afternoon pledging new measures to "restore normalcy" in the embattled areas of the mostly Christian heartland and to reopen all roads.

The commanders also called for "negotiations and contacts with all the Lebanese factions and with Syria" and the formation of a "Christian council" to represent the Christian point of view in future negotiations to settle Lebanon's 10-year civil war.

The mutineers, led by rightist "Lebanese Forces" northern commander Samir Geagea, overnight Tuesday staged a relatively bloodless takeover of most of the Christian communities to the north of Beirut. In recent days it has been consolidating its control in east Beirut, the mostly Christian sector of the capital.

Mr. Geagea and his supporters said they objected to the Syrian slant of the Lebanese government. Syria has been trying to mediate a settlement in Lebanon since the collapse of U.S. diplomacy in the spring of 1984.

Militia sources told the Associated Press that two people were killed including one militiaman, and six others wounded Friday in fighting between Gemayel and Geagea loyalists.

The mutiny in the mainly Christian militia force not only threatens to undercut Mr. Gemayel's influence in the Christian community, but also has weakened his influence as the representative of the Christians in negotiations with Muslim leaders for a national reconciliation in Lebanon.

Syria, however, insisted again Friday that it will continue supporting the Lebanese president and warned it "will not take an uncaring attitude toward these developments."



Samir Geagea, pro-Israeli commander of the Falangist "Lebanese Forces" militia, gets out of his car Friday on his way to a meeting with the leaders of Lebanon's Christian community (AP wirephoto)

Lebanese army sources told the AP two Lebanese soldiers also were injured when militiamen opened up with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades at an army unit that was deploying at a key road intersection on Beirut's eastern outskirts.

Despite the firing, the army's 83rd Battalion supported by 14 armoured personnel carriers and several jeep-mounted 106-millimetre recoilless guns, deployed on major streets and highway intersections in preparation for reopening roads barricaded earlier by the militiamen.

Radio stations said they expected the roads to be reopened within 24 hours.

"Syria wishes to emphasise its support for the Lebanese legitimacy," said a Syrian government statement. I described the uprising as "a suspicious move connected with the Israeli enemy."

Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam had earlier been quoted as saying: "Syria cannot stand uncaring in the face of any move in Lebanon that is directed by Israel or serves the Israeli objectives in Lebanon."

On Friday Mr. Khaddam met in Damascus with Lebanon's Prime Minister Rashid Karami and cabinet members on the militia rebellion.

Mr. Karami told reporters after the meeting that "Lebanon has suffered enough from the fanaticism of such people."

Shi'ite Muslim leader Nabih Berri, a member of Mr. Karami's cabinet who also was in Damascus, said the mutiny, "is very dangerous and might have repercussions that are not in the interest of anyone in Lebanon."

2 Lebanese troops, 3 Amal men killed in Israeli ambush in south

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Israeli troops Friday ambushed and killed two Lebanese army soldiers and three Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen just outside Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon, security sources said.

An Israeli force fired on a car carrying the soldiers and militiamen near the Lebanese army-held village of Kawthariyet Al Siyad, 17 kilometres south of Sidon, the sources said.

The Israelis had infiltrated from a position east of Kawthariyet Al Siyad, the scene of several clashes between Lebanese and Israeli troops, they added.

The dead included Amal's local commander. Since the first battle between Israeli and Lebanese troops on Feb. 27, Amal fighters have operated openly alongside the army beyond Israel's present "front line" in the south.

Security sources said Israel had moved two mechanised brigades into the south in the past two days. There was no immediate explanation for the move.

Israeli troops Friday raided the village of Barish, 14 kilometres east of Tyre, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping force said.

The spokesman, Timur Goksel, said about 100 soldiers in 12 armoured troop carriers sealed off the village at dawn, interrogated inhabitants and searched houses, observed by Finnish and French U.N. troops.

Israeli troops Thursday abandoned a strongpoint near Deir Qanoun village, north-east of Tyre, security sources said.

Gorbachev seeks better Chinese ties

MOSCOW (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev, the new Soviet leader, has called for a significant improvement in Soviet-Chinese relations but has delivered a stern rebuke to Pakistan's General Zia Ul-Haq over Afghanistan.

Mr. Gorbachev Thursday wound up two days of hectic meetings with world leaders who attended the funeral on Wednesday of President Konstantin Chernenko.

Mr. Gorbachev told Deputy Prime Minister Li Peng of China, with which the Soviet Union has been in conflict over ideological and foreign policy questions for more than 20 years, that he wanted a "serious improvement" in relations.

Chinese officials in Moscow said Mr. Li told Mr. Gorbachev that China also wanted to work for better political, economic, scientific and cultural ties.

Mr. Gorbachev's message to Pakistan was altogether different.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said he condemned Gen. Zia's support for rebels who have been fighting Soviet and Afghan government forces in Afghanistan since December 1979.

"It was stressed that this cannot but affect in the most negative way Soviet-Pakistani relations," TASS said, using the strongest language of all the reports it issued on Mr. Gorbachev's contacts with foreign leaders.

Mr. Gorbachev's stern warning to Gen. Zia contrasted markedly with the warm reception which he gave two days ago to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, whose assassinated mother Indira built up good relations with Moscow.

Western leaders who met Mr. Gorbachev said they were impressed with his air of authority and grasp of detail. Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany called him "collected, energetic and resolute." French President Francois Mitterrand said he was "a calm man who seems willing to take on problems firmly."

Mahmoud Al Kayed reelected president of Jordan Press Association

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mahmoud Al Kayed, a prominent journalist and editor in chief of the Arabic newspaper Al Ra'i was reelected president of the Jordanian Press Association (JPA) during the JPA's general assembly meeting at the Professionals-Associations Complex Friday.

During the meeting, which was attended by 138 members of the 144-strong JPA, a new JPA board was elected, the association's annual administrative, financial and professional reports were discussed. The association's 1985 budget was also endorsed Friday.

The meeting reviewed in depth an existing law on paying pension to retired journalists and emphasised the need to come out with a new law in order to "ensure the psychological and financial security of journalists in Jordan."

Journalists participating in Friday's meeting demanded that the various private press organisations pay their due amount of money to the association which, according to the association bylaw, is a minimum JD 6,000 a year.



Mahmoud Al Kayed

The issue of health insurance for journalists was another point raised during the meeting. Host members complained that they are not benefitting from the JPA health insurance scheme because they are medically insured somewhere else.

In reply to the complaint, Mr. Kayed promised that the JPA board will look into the issue and ensure that all journalists in Jordan are medically insured. He also suggested that all editors working in Jordan Television and Radio Jordan be admitted as JPA members.

During the meeting, one of the members, Mohammad Saeed, asked the association board to officially condemn the American stand and position towards Israeli practices in occupied South Lebanon. Mr. Saeed also requested the JPA to coordinate and cooperate with the other Arab press associations in different fields.

Other issues, such as housing, professional financial matters, were also raised and were scheduled to be discussed by the new association board at later meetings.

The new JPA board elected Friday comprises of Mr. Fakhri Abu Hamda, Mr. Fayez Hamdan, and Mr. Abdul Salam Al Tarawneh representing the three Arabic-language daily news papers in Jordan, Mr. Mohammad Daoudeiah, Mr. Bader Abdul Haq, and Mr. Saeed representing editors, and Mr. Hassan Akeel, Mr. Sameeh Haddad and Mr. Kamil Masaedah representing government-owned press institutions.

THE TOWER RESTAURANT OF OMAR EL KHAYYAM Page 5

Tehran bomb kills 6 during Friday prayers

TEHRAN (R) — A bomb went off among tens of thousands of Tehran Friday prayer worshippers Friday during a sermon by President Ali Khamenei, killing six people, including the bomber, the official media reported.

As the Iran-Iraq war continued to escalate, diplomats here reported special flights being laid on to evacuate foreigners from the Iranian capital.

After Friday's bomb, Mr. Khamenei calmly resumed his speech on Tehran University campus after a three-minute commotion. He blamed the Paris-based opposition Mujahedeen group.

But Iran's National News Agency IRNA implied collusion by Iraq, whose warplanes overflew Tehran within half an hour of the blast and met heavy anti-aircraft fire.

IRNA said the air intrusion was "apparently timed unsuccessfully to coincide with the explosion at the university" so Iraq could have claimed its planes raided the Friday prayer meeting.

The agency said a man carrying a home-made bomb around his waist was blown up at 12:33 p.m. (0903 GMT), killing himself and five worshippers and wounding 10. It did not say whether the man had been sitting among worshippers or moving among them and there was no exact indication as to the target of the attack.

Mr. Khamenei was unhurt. As usual, his sermon was being broadcast live on Tehran Radio and listeners clearly heard the blast, followed by chants of "Allah-O-Akbar" (God is Great) from worshippers and a voice urging calm.

IRNA said the Iraqi planes flew over the capital 30 minutes later but made no mention of any bombs being dropped or rockets fired.

After two Iraqi air raids this week killed a reported 10 people in Tehran, residents have become jittery and foreigners have been queuing up for seats on flights out of the country.

The Italian airline Alitalia flew a special flight into Tehran's Mehrabad Airport Friday to pick up Italian nationals and others, and the West German airline Lufthansa was expected to send in a similar flight on Sunday, diplomats said. They said no Western embassy had yet recommended evacuation.

President Khamenei, who lost the use of his right arm when a booby-trapped tape recorder blew up as he spoke in a mosque four years ago, appeared unnerved by Friday's blast.

"We will retaliate for this savage act with the utmost strength and power," he said after continuing his sermon.

Iran's latest war communique, meanwhile, said Iranian forces had killed or wounded 1,200 Iraqis since last Monday in the latest Iranian thrust in southern Iraq.

Iran has given few details of the thrust itself, saying its aims were limited and that it was merely in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on Iranian towns.



ARMY INTERVENTION: Lebanese armoured personnel carrier moves along the coastal highway in East Beirut as a column of Lebanese army vehicles attempted to separate opposing Christian militia groups (AP wirephoto)

U.S. declines comments on further evacuation

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S. embassy officials declined "for security reasons" on Friday to say whether more American diplomats would be evacuated from this tense capital.

Mark Foulon, acting embassy spokesman, said that "the ambassador the other personnel are here and the embassy is functioning." He added: "for security reasons, we cannot comment on personnel numbers or movements."

Mr. Foulon was reached by telephone at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew in the Christian suburb of Yarze, six kilometres east of Beirut.

Eighteen Americans, some of them diplomats, were moved by helicopter from Beirut to the nearby island of Cyprus on Thursday in what White House officials said was an evacuation necessitated by a militia rebellion in mainly Christian east Beirut.

Samir Geagea, a Falangist commander of the "Lebanese Forces" militia with ties to Israel, broke overnight Tuesday from the Falange Party of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel.

Mr. Geagea and his supporters, who seized control of much of the Christian heartland north of the capital, have demanded that Mr. Gemayel and the party reconsider their increasingly pro-Syrian stance.

The rebellion has created tension in east Beirut, where most U.S. diplomats now live and work, with militiamen of varying loyalties setting up roadblocks and, occasionally, clashing.

At the same time, a number of threats were levelled against Americans in connection with the U.S. veto earlier this week of a Lebanese-sponsored U.N. Security Council resolution critical of the raids Israeli army has been conducting in occupied South Lebanon.

U.S. officials here have been less than forthcoming about the situation. One embassy official who twice on Wednesday told the Associated Press that "we are not planning any evacuation" and "there are no orders to evacuate" was among those taken out by helicopter on Thursday. Associates said he had decided to take his home leave early.

Masri says no diversity with PLO over accord

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has denied the existence of any differences with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) over their recent agreement designed to reactivate efforts for a Middle East peace.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri was quoted by the weekly Qatari magazine Al Uruba as saying that both sides are committed to the Feb. 11 agreement which has won backing from the Palestinian people under Israeli rule.

What emerged after the signing of the agreement was the need for a joint clarification of its provisions, and this has now been done, the minister said.

He said that the agreement won support of the Palestinian people since it backs their struggle "for liberation, and provides for a total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands."

With reference to Egyptian-Jordanian relations, Mr. Masri said that the recent summit talks between King Hussein and President Mubarak was designed to clarify a number of points raised in the light of Mr. Mubarak's proposals and his visit to the United States.

He said that the Jordanian-Egyptian and the Jordanian-Palestinian moves are designed to influence Washington into taking a new stand vis a vis the Middle East problem.

"At present the international arena is witnessing a more positive European role that favours the establishment of a just peace," the minister pointed out.

With reference to inter-Arab relations, Mr. Masri said that Jordan continues to call for an Arab summit to end differences among Arab countries. An Arab summit he said is normally held to solve differences, "and now it has become more urgent than ever before."

New Zealand examines Sinai force options

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand is studying ways of remaining in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) after Australia withdraws from the joint operation next year, Prime Minister David Lange told Reuters.

"Australia has kept us informed of its plan to withdraw from the MFO in 1986 and as our men form part of an integrated ANZAC (Australian-New Zealand) unit within the MFO we have... had to look at the implications of their decision," he said.

New Zealand supplies pilots and support technicians for the joint helicopter unit in the MFO and Mr. Lange said there were clear logistical difficulties in remaining at the El Gorah Base near the Israeli border after the Australian pull-out.

But he said the MFO was a step towards peace and stability in the region "and New Zealand wishes to continue to play its part in that."

Rabin: Faster pace of Lebanon pullout likely

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel is likely to increase the pace of its withdrawal from Lebanon by shortening the two remaining stages of its pullback and partly combining them, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview published Friday.

Interviewed by the daily Yediot Ahronot, Mr. Rabin said that "I estimate that everything will be done to shorten (the second stage), and theoretically there exists a possibility of combining parts of stage two and stage three. I hope the government will take decisions in time in order to enable a faster withdrawal."

However, refusing to give his reasons, Mr. Rabin said he did not think that Israeli troops could withdraw from Lebanon in one combined stage.

The government has said that the second stage, Israel's withdrawal from its confrontation line with Syria in eastern Lebanon, should be completed by late April or early May. Two weeks ago Mr. Rabin said the third stage, designed to bring Israeli troops back to their border, would be completed by Sept. 15, the Jewish New Year.

The first two stages were authorised by a large majority of the Israeli cabinet, but the third and last stage is likely to encounter more opposition among right-wing Likud Party ministers who argue that Israel should create a broad security zone, up to 25 kilometres deep, north of the Israeli border.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday that the speed of withdrawal would depend only on military logistics and not on political pressures.

A growing number of parliament members has called for a complete withdrawal by early May, prompted at least in part by the increasingly violent attacks against Israeli troops. A suicide truck bomb killed 12 soldiers and wounded 14 last Sunday, and other suicide bombing attempts have been reported. Newspaper reports have said the Israeli army favours a speedy withdrawal.

The liberal Haaretz newspaper quoted military sources as saying that the third stage of the withdrawal could be accomplished in a few days and that the speed of the second stage would be dictated by the weather. The hilly regions of east Lebanon are currently under snow.

However, Israel Radio on Friday quoted military Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Moshe Levy as saying that people who thought the two stages could be carried out as one "do not know what are talking about."

Mr. Rabin expressed considerable pessimism concerning the long-term effects of current Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim hostility toward Israel, saying that it could well continue even after Israel withdraws from Lebanon.

"I believe there is a real danger that the Shi'ite leadership ... has already passed the 12th hour (the point of no return) in its hatred of the Israeli army and perhaps also of Israel," Yediot Ahronot quoted Mr. Rabin as saying. This could lead to attempts to attack Israel even after its withdrawal, he added.

Israeli Labour Party gains support in polls

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party has gained support since Israel's July 1984 election but not enough to set up a government on its own, according to an opinion poll published Friday.

The Smith Research Centre poll showed 50 per cent of those surveyed favoured Labour and its allies, while 44 per cent favoured the right-wing Likud and its allies. The results represented a three per cent gain for Labour and an 8 per cent drop for Likud.

The poll was conducted among 1,300 Jewish Israelis during the last week of February and had about a 2 per cent margin of error.

The latest survey by the respected pollster showed that the shift to Labour would still not be enough to allow Mr. Peres to set up a government on his own, unless it got Palestinian support, which was not taken into account in the poll, or was backed by most of the 5 per cent who said they had no preference.

The poll reported that Mr. Peres' personal popularity was "quite high" and the pro-Labour newspaper Davar claimed it equalled that of former Likud Prime Minister Menachem Begin at his peak.

It said 65 per cent of those questioned believed Mr. Peres was doing a good job, while 49 per cent thought Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud Bloc was doing a good job.

Israelis face new kind of resistance war in South Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — At a memorial service in this Shi'ite Muslim port city, Ismail Atawi insisted on being congratulated instead of consoled because his brother died in a holy cause — fighting Israel's occupation.

"Do not say you are sorry. Say congratulations," Mr. Atawi, a dentist whose brother Haj Khalil Atawi died in a bomb blast in the nearby village of Maarake, told reporter. "We win or we go to heaven. Either way, praise allah."

Ismail Atawi, friends, relatives and Shi'ite Muslim clergymen who crowded into a sparsely furnished apartment for the memorial in this town of 50,000 all blamed the death on Israel's army although Israel denied any role.

Their views reflect the increasing role religion is playing in the Shi'ite resistance to Israel's presence in South Lebanon, fuelling such acts of martyrdom as the suicide truck bomb that killed 12 Israeli soldiers and wounded 14 last Sunday.

Israel has responded with a controversial policy called the "iron fist," a stepped-up use of force against villages suspected of aiding the resistance fighters and harsher regulations affecting civilians.

But the rising cycle of violence has triggered a national debate in Israel and pressure on the government to speed up its withdrawal from South Lebanon, which began Feb. 16 and is not due to be completed in the Shi'ite sector until at least September.

Israeli officials have expressed astonishment that the guerrilla campaign would intensify while its army is in the midst of a three-stage withdrawal from Lebanon.

"A spirit of madness is passing over that war-torn country, where reason and common sense are not used but rather suicide, blood, murder...," deputy Israeli Prime Minister David Levy said on Israel Radio.

Traditionally, the Shi'ite in South Lebanon have been farmers and fishermen at the bottom of the social and economic ladder. The deepening influence of religion is "a direct outcome of isolation and a vacuum in local leadership," said a Western diplomat who spoke on condition of anonimity.

The influx of Palestinian commandos in the mid-1970s drove out the traditional leaders — land-owning families who for generations had controlled the villages. Shi'ite farmers formed militias to fight the Palestinian occupation and initially welcomed Israel's June 1982 invasion that routed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

But Israel's occupation has become increasingly stifling to the economy and freedom of movement of the people. Iranian-influenced clergy have stepped in to offer leadership, and the attacks on the Israelis have been concentrated in areas where the clergy are the strongest — a cluster of villages east of Tyre called "the arc of the resistance" and the Nabatiyeh area.

"They are basically turning to religion as a last resort, out of frustration with Israel's occupation," said the diplomat.

Many observers believe the conflict began in October 1983 when town of Nabatiyeh. The clergymen, some trained in Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic Republic of Iran, then issued religious edicts called "fatwa" urging the population to kill Israeli soldiers.

Speaking to reporters at an Israeli base near Tyre last week, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said, "I believe there is more and more Khomeinist, fundamentalist influence among certain sectors of the Shi'ite community. It might be that this religious fanaticism has led to this type of (anti-Israeli) activity."

Mr. Rabin suggested Israel might consider with drawing earlier than planned from Shi'ite sectors of the South, but Prime Minister Shimon Peres' bipartisan government is divided on whether it can afford to retreat hastily in the face of resistance attacks.

Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers are left to defend themselves as harshly as they can.

"Everyone is afraid here when you have bombs falling on your head all the time, but we are doing the job," Yaron, a 21-year-old Israeli soldier, told reporters after returning from a foot partrol north of the Litani River, which is Israel's front line in Lebanon.

As bursts of automatic weapons fire reverberated a few hundred yards away, Yaron said that his frontline outpost had been attacked 20 times in the past week, mostly at night.

The next day, two Israeli soldiers were killed and two others wounded by resistance fighters who ambushed an Israeli patrol in the same area.

"The local population is nervous, and we are even more nervous," said another Israeli soldier who identified himself only as Eli in keeping with army regulations.

Since the beginning of the year, 34 Israelis have been killed in South Lebanon, nearly half of them in the past week. The deaths raised to 638 the number of Israelis killed since the invasion was launched.

The character of the resistance war has changed in the few short weeks since Israel began implementing its withdrawal plan.

Reuven, a 21-year-old private, said most of the attacks had come from north of the Litani, the area Israel evacuated on Feb. 16, and not from the local population. "It is very organised," he said. "It's a real military operation, not just a couple of guys firing a rocket at night for the fun of it."

The nervousness of the soldiers can be seen in the frequent use of random fire which Lebanese residents blame for unnecessary injuries and property damage.

For example, a Lebanese bird hunter was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers who saw him with a rifle and mistook him for a resistance fighter, the Jerusalem Post reported this week.

A reporter who followed an Israeli army armoured personnel carrier on the narrow, pot-holed road to Tyre saw a soldier fire a long burst of machinegun fire into an orange grove as his convoy rounded a corner.

Israeli officers say the practice is limited to areas where resistance attacks can be anticipated. But bursts of gunfire are heard frequently and as a result, oranges hang heavy on the unpicked trees. Owners say they are unable to find labourers to pick their crops.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

Morning Programmes
08:00 Sports
08:25 Childrens' Programme
08:35 English Teaching
08:50 First Aid
17:00 Koran
17:10 Cartoons
17:30 Children Programmes
18:05 Animals Animals
18:25 Candid Camera
18:50 Local Programme
19:20 Programme Review
19:30 News Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:35 Programme Review
21:50 Arabic Film
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Film Contd.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

17:30 German Programme: New Clothes for Old Tales
18:00 Des chiffres det des lettres
18:20 L'ecole des fans
19:00 News in French
19:15 l'appartement
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Orson Welles
21:00 Perspective
21:10 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:15 . Feature film: The Double Man
21:55 News Summary
22:00 The Blues
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Country Music
23:57 News Headlines
24:00 Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 That's Trad 06:45 Financial News 6:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 News Summary 07:30 About Britain 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Album Time 09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 From the Weeklies 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 A Jolly Good Show 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Romantic Piano 12:00 News Summary 12:15 Letter from America 12:30 People and Politics 13:00 Robert Mayer Concert 14:15 Anything Goes 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network U.K. 15:45 Country Music Profile 16:00 News Summary, Music Now 16:30 Saturday Special 17:00 Radio Newsreel 17:15 Saturday Special 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Saturday Special 19:00 appx News Summary: Saturday Special 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Play of the Week: More Out Than In 21:00 News Summary; Play of the Week: More Out Than In 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Jazz for the Asking 23:00 News Summary: In Spite of Ourselves 23:15 What's New 23:30 People and Politics 24:00 World News 00:09 From our own Correspondent 00:30 New Ideas

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260 MW, 7200, 9565, 11740 11925 and 15210 KHz.

06:00 VOA Morning: News. Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, Sports News at 30 minute past the hour. 17:00 News 17:10 This Week 17:30 Press Conference USA 18:00 News 18:10 American viewpoints 18:30 Special English News Features 19:00 News 19:10 Weekend 20:00 News 20:10 Close-up 20:30 Special English News and Features 21:00 News 21:10 American Viewpoints 21:30 Press Conference USA 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA (Jazz) 23:00 Weekend Survey of World News.

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9560 KHz, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:03 Pop Session contd.
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Jordan Weekly
14:30 Music
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Talking Points
17:30 Animal Vegetable Mineral
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 News
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 The 15th Century A.H.
20:30 The Young Sound
21:00 News Summary
21:05 25 Years of Rock

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of local engineeringindustries at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Engineering.

* An exhibition of plastic art by the Jordanian artist Mrs. Janet Jumblatt at the Royal Cultural Centre.

DANCE

* Janet Smith and dancers at the Royal Cultural Centre Friday 15th and Saturday 16th March at 8:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre . Tel. 661026/7
American Centre 44371
American Centre Library 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library .. 84355

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists, Muntazah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Ammon Hotel, 7.30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh. 37440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.

Church of the Assumption (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 25383.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.

Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 816534.

PRAYER TIMES

04:22 Fajr
05:45 (Sunrise) Duha
11:45 Dhuhr
15:10 'Asr
17:45 Maghreb
19:00 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:30 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Dubai, Karachi (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
09:55 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55 Dhahran (RJ)
10:20 Cairo (MS)
10:20 Beirut (RJ)
10:45 Riyadh (RJ)
10:45 Singapore, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
12:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:40 Kuwait (KU)
16:50 Baghdad (IA)
17:25 Athens (RJ)
17:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
18:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
19:45 Tripoli (RJ)
20:40 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
20:50 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
00:45 Cairo (RJ)
01:10 Baghdad (RJ)
01:30 Bucharest, Larnaca (RO)

DEPARTURES

05:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:50 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:15 Aqaba (RJ)
08:30 Athens (OA)
08:45 Beirut (MEA)
11:15 Tripoli (RJ)
11:20 Cairo (MS)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
11:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Rome, Paris (RJ)
12:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:00 Bahrain (GF)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:40 Kuwait (KU)
17:50 Baghdad (IA)
19:30 Kuwait (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:45 Cairo (RJ)
21:10 Baghdad (RJ)
02:40 Larnaca, Bucharest (RO)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— Hual Lisita
— Mosa Pijade
— Ibn Quraibah
— Sifnos Star
— Thita Argo
— Medhat

Amin Kawar and Sons Company, Tel: 22324 (six lines) at your service.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in fils

Belgian franc	61.6/	62.1
Dutch guilder	109.3/	110.2
Egyptian guinea	304/	308.5
French franc	40.4/	40.7
Iraqi dinar	400/	407.6
Italian lire (for 100)	19.7/	20
Japanese yen (for 100)	159.9/	161.2
Kuwaiti dinar	1363.3	1370
Lebanese lira	23.2/	24.1
Omani riyal	1193.3/	1201.6
Qatari riyal	114.4/	114.8
Saudi riyal	115.3/	116.1
Swedish crown	43.6/	43.9
Swiss franc	145.3/	146.5
Syrian lira	35.1/	36.2
UAE dirham	113.4/	114.8
U.K. sterling pound	452.3/	455.9
U.S. dollar	416.5/	419
W. German mark	123.7/	124.7

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be warm and dry. Light and variable winds will become southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hazy, with northerly moderate winds and seas calm.

Low/high temperature in deg.C.

Amman	9/23
Aqaba	15/30
Deserts	8/26
Jordan Valley	12/29

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21.5, Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 26 per cent, Aqaba 40.5 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance	193, 775111
Firstaid, fire, police	199
Blood bank	775121
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	22090-3
Police rescue	192, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters	39141
Traffic police	56390-1
Electric Power Co.	36381-2
Municipal water service	771125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport	(08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre	813813-32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amm	44281-4
Akileh Materaity, J. Amman	42441
Jabal Amman Maternity	42362
Mallus, J. Amman	36140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171-4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Daz Al-Shifa, J. Hussein	667158
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227-9
The Islamic, Abdali	665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111
Army, Marka	91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Libbadeh 96560

Dr. Kamal Ramahi	770018
Mreish pharmacy	770910
Nairoukh pharmacy	23672
Al Hikmah pharmacy	20571
Al Haditha pharmacy	30836
Fayez pharmacy	661627
Al Sumah pharmacy	36194

TAXIS:

Rainbow taxi	37249
Khasem taxi	43620
Ambassador taxi	664660
Karnak taxi	668761
Jihad taxi	842664
Nahda taxi	663003

IRBID

Dr. Amin Abu Edeh	244468
Jordan pharmacy	244596

ZARQA:

Dr. Mohammad Yaghmour	985299
Jordan pharmacy	83124

GENERAL

Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Ministry of Tourism	42311
Hotel complaints	666412
Price complaints	661176
Telephone:	
Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Cable or telegram	
Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in fils per kg.

Apple	250 / 250
Banana	280 / 240
Banana (Mukammar)	240 / 210
Beans	250 / 200
Broad beans	170 / 140
Cabbage	130 / 100
Chestnut	540 / 500
Carrot (yellow)	120 / 100
Carrot (black)	140 / 120
Cauliflower	130 / 100
Cucumber (large)	100 / 80
Cucumber (small)	160 / 130
Eggplant (large)	150 / 110
Eggplant (small)	130 / 100
Garlic	170 / 140
Grapefruit	210 / 180
Lemon	140 / 110
Lettuce (per one)	120 / 100
Mandarin	160 / 130
Marrow (large)	100 / 80
Marrow (small)	180 / 150
Onion (dry)	180 / 150
Onion (green)	140 / 120
Oranges (Abu Surra)	300 / 260
Oranges (Shammouti)	190 / 160
Parsley	70 / 70
Pears (American)	600 / 540
Pepper (sweet)	540 / 500
Pepper (hot green)	680 / 640
Potatoes (local)	140 / 100
Radishes	70 / 50
Spinach	100 / 90
Tomatoes	140 / 100
Turnip	120 / 100

Seminar on Bilad Al Sham opens today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The second symposium of the Fourth International Conference entitled "Bilad Al Sham during the early classical Islamic Period" will be held Saturday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein.

Taking part in the week-long symposium, which will be presided over by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will be 70 scholars from 38 universities and academic institutions, specialised in the history of Greater Syria (Bilad Al Sham).

Research papers to be presented by participants include various subjects related to the Islamic Arab conquest of Bilad Al Sham, contacts and correspondence between the Prophet Mohammad and Arab tribes in Bilad Al Sham and the formation of Islamic armies.

They also deal with attitudes of the Bilad Al Sham population towards the Islamic conquest and the Islamic Arab administration of the region in addition to the economic and social life during the period.

The convocation of the seminar comes within the framework of the International Conference on Bilad Al Sham, which the three Jordanian universities have been keen on holding since 1972 with the aim of rallying specialised efforts to undertake in-depth research into the subject.

On the sidelines of the symposium four exhibitions will be held. The first will deal with documents of the Swiss orientalist Max van Berchem, the second will be a pictorial exhibition reflecting social and historical culture of Jordan while the third will be a book exhibition and the fourth will be a commercial exhibition.

A special programme of visits by the seminar participants to the historical sites and the tombs of the Prophet Mohammad's companions has also been drawn up.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hussein, Hassan condole Dabbas family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday assigned Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid to take part in the funeral procession of the late Mazen Al Dabbas and to extend the King's condolences to Al Dabbas family. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan also assigned his adviser and director of his office, Yousef Bouran, to convey his condolences to Al Dabbas family.

Hassan visits families of mishap victims

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has visited and offered his condolences to the families of Royal Military Academy cadets who were killed during a training exercise at the Dead Sea last week.

Man kills another, shoots himself

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 41-year-old man, identified as S.W., shot dead another man, identified as M.D., near Al Qal'a crossroad in Amman Thursday, according to a story published Friday in the local Arab dailies. The murderer then immediately shot himself and later succumbed to his injuries. Two passers-by, one of whom was a child, suffered injuries while passing near the scene of the shooting, the reports said. Investigations are continuing into the incident.

JEA to hold dialogue on transfer of technology

AMMAN (Petra) — An open dialogue on the transfer of technology will be held at the Professional Association Complex in Amman Saturday.

The dialogue which will be opened by Mr. Ibrahim Abu Ayyash, president of the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) is expected to be attended by a group of specialists and experts in the field of transfer of technology.

The dialogue is hoped to help Jordan work out priorities for speeding up its economic and social development, according to Dr. Rawhi Al Sharif, who heads a preparatory committee for the Saturday dialogue.

He said that the participants will discuss the effects of the transfer of technology on the local community, distribution of income, the effect of the "brain drain" on Jordan, the importation of foreign labour, social and economic issues as well as areas affected by the modern technology like industry, energy, water resources, food production and construction.

Mr. Abu Ayyash said that JEA attaches great importance to the transfer of technology because this helps Jordan achieve social development and creates job opportunities. "But such technology should be suitable for the Jordanian environment, traditions and customs."



His Majesty King Hussein receives Djibouti Industry and Industrial Development Minister Fahmi Mohammad Al Haj (Petra photo)

Rawabdeh: Municipality building bridges of confidence with citizens

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Municipality has done its best to build bridges of confidence with the citizen, wherever, he or she lives, within the boundaries of Amman Municipality, Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh said Friday.

Mr. Rawabdeh was delivering a speech on the occasion of the Arab City Day, which fell on Friday.

Arab Cities Organisation (ACO) celebrates this year's day under the theme "cooperation of citizen and municipality is a basis for city's development and progress".

Mr. Rawabdeh praised the Jordanian citizens, saying that their response exceeded the expectations of Amman Municipality, "because they demonstrated a high degree of cooperation with the municipality."

The good response demonstrated by our citizens, Mr. Rawabdeh said, prompts us to exert further efforts to get closer to our citizens and to meet their demands.

Speaking about the ACO, Mr. Rawabdeh said it exerts untiring efforts to upgrade the standard of Arab cities and to preserve the Islamic architectural design and to provide good services to citizens.

The organisation also works on adopting the comprehensive planning method to direct the activities and services of cities, in accordance with their economic, social, cultural and environmental situations, Mr. Rawabdeh added.

He added that among the other aims of the organisation are developing and modernising municipal and local institutions and developing and unifying legislations and regulations in relation to municipalities.

The organisation also provides municipalities with loans to enable them to implement their developmental project and encourages cooperation and exchange of expertise among Arab cities.

Speaking about the setup of the organisation, which comprises 350 cities, Mr. Rawabdeh said it is made up of two institutions:

The Arab Cities Development Fund which is based in Kuwait and the Arab Institute For Developing Cities, which is based in Riyadh.

UNEP, Jordan sign agricultural accord

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Jordan have recently signed an agreement to set up a pilot project with a cost of $1,680,000 to combat arid lands to stem desertification encroachment and to rehabilitate vegetative cover at 'Lajjun' in the southern part of the Kingdom.

The two-year project, which is expected to start functioning in April 1985, will also help expand grazing fields to develop animal wealth through drilling wells to benefit from ground-water.

Authoritative sources at the Ministry of Planning told the Jordan Times that the implementation of such a scheme in a remote area (Lajjun) aims to prevent the migration of people away from the region.

The sources said the ministry is studying the feasibility of setting up natural environments to conserve agriculture and animal wealth in rural areas following the example of 'Alshomary resort'.

According to the sources, the project which will be applied on a 50,000 dunum area expandable to one million dunums, will be executed by cooperation among the Ministries of Planning, Agriculture, Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and UNEP.

The pilot project was prompted to provide ground and surface water, to set up flower nurseries by the Ministry of Agriculture, to promote a cooperative movement and improve animal wealth.

The project will be a model project for neighbouring countries since it will organise land utilisation in support of development targets and as a mean for the conservation of environment.

The project, which is expected to see the light by March 1987, will be financed by the government of Jordan with the equivalent of $400,000 in local currency, the Arab Gulf Fund (AGF) with $400,000, U.S. Aid for International Development with $400,000 and a $80,000 contribution from the UNEP for administrative cost.

The project will have long-term and short-term objectives. The long-term objective is to establish, on a sufficient scale, a model project for the rehabilitation of degraded rangeland in the low rainfall areas.

Jordan, Italy discuss development schemes

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Italy Thursday opened meetings at the Ministry of Agriculture to define development schemes that will be financed by an Italian loan to Jordan, to be spent between 1984-1986.

Teams from both sides discussed projects in agriculture, water and soil development, health and other related areas where the JD 20 million soft-loan will be spent until the end of 1986.

The loan was agreed on during Italian President Sandro Pertini's visit to Jordan in 1983.

Italy has also agreed to provide Jordan with $10 million in technical assistance, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

It said that the Italian team accompanied by Jordanian officials and specialists are making field trips to various areas where Jordanian projects are underway with Italian aid which include among others, the Aqaba Thermal Power Station, and the Jordanian Ports Corporation in the port city of Aqaba.

Farmers offered more incentives to reclaim highlands

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A project for the development of the highland agricultural regions of Jordan has been continuing since 1965 and in 1983 entered its third phase, according to the project manager from the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Ahmad Rimawi.

The main purpose of the project, which has been conducted jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and the World Food Programme (WFP), is to reclaim hilly lands and replant fruit trees in the medium-hilly areas and forest trees in the very hilly ones. The project covers the whole country with the exception of the Jordan Valley and the desert. A requirement for the project is that the area receives a minimum of 250 mm of rainfall. This quantity, which is considered insufficient in some very developed countries, is considered optimal in a "dry country like Jordan where efforts are made to take advantage of every drop of rain.

Project's purposes

The two main purposes of the project are, in fact, the conservation of rain and the reduction or control of soil erosion. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, only 10 per cent or less of the total country area is arable land, approximately 400,000 dogums, that can be expanded to a maximum of 7-800,000 by irrigation. Two thirds of this area is hilly, and is now either idle or used for cereal production.

Growing cereal in hilly areas, however, is more harmful than useful to farmers, according to specialists at the ministry. In the first place, it is not economical, and, in second place, it is harmful to the land, because most farmers plough the land against the contours, from the top to the bottom of the hill, a technique which contributes to the erosion of the soil and the wastage of rainwater.

The techniques used in this project include cleaning of the soil from stones, which are then used to build terraces, and contour ploughing in order to conserve water and soil. The best trees for the area are then chosen and seedlings are supplied at a minimal cost, 50 per cent of the regular price to the farmers by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The project is dealing with private land. While, at the beginning, the project was advertised to farmers and thoroughly explained through lectures and pamphlets, most farmers are now aware of it and its benefits. Since the beginning of this present phase of the project in 1983, over 4,000 farmers or owners have participated to the project. During the last 20 years, according to government figures, at least 15,000 of them have really benefitted from the project.

Success rate

Dr. Rimawi explains that not all projects are successful. He believes that 60 per cent of the projects undertaken during this programme have been truly successful and he considers this a very good percentage considering the dryness of the area, the illiteracy of many farmers and the constraints. In places like Salt and Jerash whole areas have benefitted from the programme.

The programme is based in Amman, with a committee in every district including at least three full-time staff members, which has freedom of making its own decisions regarding the land and the farmers involved. There are 11 units outside Amman.

During the last 20 years, the project has planted about 250,000 dunums with fruit trees and 80-90 per cent of these were olive trees. Next came grape vines, then stone fruit trees and pomme fruit trees.

Loans

Although the project is now well-known by farmers, updated information is still distributed at meetings. Financial aid offered by the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) is helping to make loans available for up to 10 years with a 5 years grace period at an interest rate of 6 per cent. This month the period has been extended to no less than 12 years.

Another incentive for farmers is the food aid distributed by the World Food Programme (WFP). The government offers support with technical advice and cash, grants or soft loans. Fencing, in fact, is done totally from government grants and, since 1982, about JD 500,000 were supplied for fencing alone. The government also supplies stones, machines, transportation, and seedlings at 50 per cent of the price. The farmers for their part supply their work or cash or both. The government asks for minimum specifications, but some farmers want to do more, Mr. Rimawi said.

The programme is directed mainly to small farmers with properties of 50 dunums or less, since large farms usually already have enough resources to implement their lands. Mr. Rimawi said that one main lesson the ministry has learned from less successful projects is to be selective in their choice of farmers. Only the farmers who are truly interested and ready to cooperate can now benefit from this programme. The government decision of not supporting any farmer in advance, but only after they have proven their interest by their work helps in this selection.

More interest from farmers

While in the past there have been more obstacles due to ignorance of farmers and periods of extreme drought in the country, the Ministry of Agriculture said that since 1980 there has been a marked increase of interest shown by farmers, as well as more rainfall to water the land.

The most successful projects have been in Salt and Balqa in the past, but now they are mainly in the Irbid governorate. The reason, according to the ministry, is that there are more farmers in Irbid who themselves work the land and follow the operations personally. The Irbid Governorate includes now about 70 per cent of the present projects. Another 20 per cent is concentrated in the Amman-Balqa Governorate, and the remaining 10 per cent in the south, especially in Tafila where farmers are already used to their work and have experience. Growing fruit trees, the ministry said, is in fact a difficult task which needs qualified farmers. The ministry hopes to continue this project at least until 1988.

Hussein receives message from Hasan Goulid

Jordan, Djibouti to boost cooperation

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Friday received a message from Djibouti President Al Haj Hasan Goulid dealing with bilateral relations.

The message was delivered by Djibouti Minister of Industry and Industrial Development Fahmi Ahmad Al Haj at an audience with the King at Al Nadwah Palace attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem and Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani.

Mr. Haj later left Amman after a four-day visit in which he held talks with Dr. Anani and senior officials on economic and trade relations.

Before his departure, Mr. Haj and Dr. Anani signed the minutes of their meeting's document that calls for regulating economic, trade and technical ties between the two countries.

The document calls for efforts to increase trade between the two countries, to use Djibouti as a base for reexporting Jordanian products to East African, Red Sea and Indian Ocean countries and the continued exchange of trade delegations. It also calls for the setting of a permanent trade exhibition of Jordanian products and the export to Djibouti of Jordanian agricultural products.

The document also calls for the establishment of regular sea and air routes for transport of goods, development of cooperation in investment, using Jordan's capital and experience for building housing units, establishing a housing bank in Djibouti and studying the construction of an industrial estate complex.

The document also calls for joint studies of industrial projects to manufacture insulating materials, children's food, plastic agricultural houses, textile and other industrial items.

According to the document, Jordan will also send its doctors to Djibouti for developing health services there.

In the field of economic relations, the two sides agreed that the Central Bank of Jordan will grant the Central Bank of Djibouti credit facilities for buying Jordanian goods.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Haj described his visit to Jordan as fruitful and said it culminated in promoting commercial exchange between the two countries.

King Hussein expressed readiness and concern to enhance the existing ties between the two countries, he said.

Mr. Haj said the talks he held here also resulted in promoting industries in Djibouti with the aid of Jordanian technical assistance, mainly building materials industry. He also said the talks covered possibilities of increasing Jordan's exports to Djibouti, mainly cement.

Commenting on possibilities of opening a maritime route between Aqaba and Djibouti, Mr. Haj said "Djibouti represents the gate to Eastern Africa," and Jordan-Djibouti sea links will provide an entrance to the Kingdom's industrial, and agricultural products to Africa.

"Djibouti's free enterprise system and geographic location make it a vital point in commercial liaison among Jordan, the Red Sea countries and the Indian Ocean," the minister said.

His visit also helped convey to Jordan, Djibouti's need for Jordan's technical expertise in the fields of economy, industry and medicine, he said. He found Jordan was willing to cooperate with Djibouti in such fields, the minister concluded.



Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, representatives and station managers from around the world meet during the opening of the Alia's biennial conference in Amman (Petra photo)

Alia opens Airport Services Conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline has opened its 15th biennial conference to review ways for improving air and ground services and providing more safety for passengers and luggage.

The "Airport Services Conference — 1985," was opened by Alia's Director General Mahmoud Balqaz who in a speech at the opening session, called on all Alia ground stations in 39 countries to take whatever measures necessary to ensure efficient and speedy services in all fields of operations.

Alia's vice president for services Akel Biltaji said that the conference will draw up plans for the airline's services in the coming two years based on recommendations taken earlier for improving these services for passengers, air-freight, catering and other related functions.

"Services by each Alia ground station are being assessed separately, and all matters connected with passengers, freight, catering services, luggage and safety of passengers are being thoroughly studied with the purpose of arriving at the most up to date methods to be applied by the airline," Mr. Biltaji added.

Attending the conference are representatives of Alia and station managers from 38 stations around the world.

U.N. executing 2 projects in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations is currently executing two rural development projects in support of women in the Jordanian country-side at a cost of $254,000, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative Adnan Raouf.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, he said the two projects aim to establish two social centres at Sama Serhan and Diban.

The centres will be manned and equipped by the U.N. and country women will be provided with sheep to keep and raise.

As for UNDP projects during 1982-1983, he said the most important was a $45,000 training project where women were trained by local instructors on the maintenance of electrical equipment.

Other projects included the provision of technical equipment for Princess Sarvath Girls College and the financing of two kindergarten, nursing and home economics training course at the college at a cost of $45,000.

As for 1981-1982 he said UNDP contributed $250,000 to Princess Rahma Centre for Development.

The contribution included the provision of a consultant at the centre, provisions for studies and administrative assistance.

University establishes centre for strategic studies

By Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan University recently established a centre for Strategic Studies. It was opened in 1984 and one of its major aims, according to the regulations issued by the university, is to study political, economic, social and military aspects of issues affecting Jordan and the Arab World and their future.

Professor Kamel Abu Jaber, the centre's director, told the Jordan Times that it is intended to build the centre up as a main regional centre for the study of issues concerning Jordan, Palestine and the Arab World as well as the U.S.A., the Soviet Union and European powers.

In order to fulfill its objectives, the centre may delegate researchers from the university or elsewhere to conduct studies, carry out research and organise conferences, symposiums and courses on matters of domestic, regional or international significance, according to regulations issued by the university.

Publication activities will include the issue of single research papers, handbooks as well as of a specialized periodical, the first edition of which is in preparation.

Cooperation, coordination

The centre works in cooperation and coordination with institutions of similar purposes. It has established relations with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of the West German Free Democratic Party, which has an office in Amman.

Within its short period of existence, the Centre for Strategic Studies has already carried out a number of activities. In February, a conference on "Jordan in the 1990s" dealing with strategic issues was held with scholars from many countries taking part. A study of the Israeli political parties and election results from 1945 onwards carried out by the centre's researchers was recently completed and will be published soon.

This is in line with the further aims set for the centre by the regulations which are in particular to.

— Monitor, collate and document all events pertaining to the Palestinian cause, the Arab and the Islamic Worlds,

— Concentrate on Hebrew studies and monitor, collate and document all events relating to Zionism and Israel,

— Study and analyse intellectual, social, economic, political and military trends in the world

— Promote, at the various university departments, specialized studies on Hebrew, Soviet, African and Asian affairs.

International conferences

Professor Abu Jaber, in his capacity as director of the centre, has recently contributed to several international conferences. He submitted a paper on the Iran-Iraq war to a conference held by the South East Asian Institute in Singapore and he lectured on the "Social and Political Implications of Investments in the Arab World" in New York. In a conference organised by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Bonn, West Germany he expressed Jordan's position concerning the Palestine question.

Presently, the centre is preparing a conference on the strategic importance of the Red Sea in which all countries bordering the Red Sea are to take part. It is scheduled to be held at the end of this year or early in 1986.

The executive council of the centre is composed of eleven members, chaired by the University president and including the centre's director. The other nine members represent the university faculties, other Jordanian universities, government institutions and the private sector. The members are appointed by the Jordan University president for a term of two years.

The executive council, sets the centre's plan and supervises their execution as well as set the centre's budget, which is part of the university budget. The council reports annually on the centre's activities.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Egyptian position changing?

PRESIDENT MUBARAK of Egypt in his talks with the American administration warned that U.S. interests will be in grave danger if no speedy solution is found for the Palestine problem. This warning prompts us to ask whether the president's statement was a mere expression of Egypt's dismay over Washington's stand or whether Cairo intends to take the initiative for a new strategy to influence America's policies towards the Middle East.

In either case, the new Egyptian stand is encouraging and marks a new important development, though only the future can reveal the actual intentions of President Mubarak. Yet the Arabs should rally behind Egypt and encourage it to take a leading role to influence America's policies and so reactivate efforts for solving the Palestine problem, despite the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance.

The Arabs should prove to the Americans and the Israelis that they can act as well as warn or issue threats. They have to prove to the enemy that the Arab Nation holds the initiative and will do whatever it can to thwart Israel's attempts to liquidate the Palestine problem.

Al Dustour: Making Israel happy

IT IS not surprising for Israel to voice its delight over Washington's reply to President Hosni Mubarak's proposals as presented to President Reagan in the past week regarding new initiatives to solve the Middle East problem.

Israel considers this negative stand as one that runs in harmony with its own desires and policies in the region. The Israeli leaders considered Washington's reply as an official U.S. policy encouraging them to maintain an aggressive policy and continue to deny the Palestinian people their right to their homeland.

Israel and its ally, the United States, want the Arab Nation to enter negotiations with Israel without prior condition and without any guarantee that Israel will offer the Palestinians their rights. They both want separate negotiations, hoping to deepen the rift among the Arabs, and above all Israel refuses to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as a representative of the Palestinian people.

In the light of this situation, we find the Arab peace proposals in complete contradiction with the stands of both Tel Aviv and Washington. The Arabs seek a just and comprehensive peace based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and seek to regain their rights in Palestine — something strongly opposed by the Arabs' enemies and their allies. If anything, the U.S. reply to Mubarak's proposals has revealed the big gap between the two sides and leaves the matter for the Arab Nation to decide on what to be done to establish justice.

Sawt Al Shaab: Does this protect U.S. interests?

WASHINGTON 'S DECISION to pull out its Marines from Lebanon marked the first step in its retreat from the Middle East region, following the signing of the strategic alliance agreement with Israel. Since that first step, the U.S. has been continually retreating from this region but at the same time leaving matters more complicated than ever.

Washington was not satisfied with preventing the Soviet Union from assuming any political role to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, but has been exercising pressure on European nations to prevent any contribution to resolving the issue. Thus the United States proved it is not only retreating from earlier promises for helping reestablish peace but also complicating things for those interested in it.

Contradictions in U.S. statements vis-a-vis the Middle East were clear and manifest in what President Reagan says and what his senior aides believe Reagan has said i.e. that Washington has real interest in a Middle East peace and the recent Arab steps taken in this respect are conducive to such peace. His aides said however that Washington will not play a mediatory role and will leave it up to the parties themselves to arrange a settlement. This American retreat from the Middle East arena and total bias towards Israel can not protect U.S. interests nor can it absolve it from its responsibility.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Mideast tension suits U.S.?

PRESIDENT HOSNI Mubarak's visit to Washington and his talks with the American administration have failed to dislodge the United States from its hard-line position and its total and blind support for Israel.

President Mubarak had suggested that Washington hold talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in order to pave the way for solving the Palestine problem. In reply, Reagan said that his country would rather see direct Arab-Israeli negotiations. The Reagan reply does not only mean a total support for Israel's aggressive policies in our region but also a rebuff for President Mubarak's efforts that are aimed at establishing a just peace.

Perhaps the American reply was in reaction to Egypt's decision to involve itself with Arab issues designed to achieve success for the Arab efforts. It was also a stab in the back to the Egyptian president and an attempt to thwart all Arab tendency towards peace. This American reply openly reveals the intentions of the American administration to keep the Middle East in a turbulent situation for the benefit of Israel and its desire to see the Arab countries constantly divided and incapable of fulfilling any of their aspirations.

Sawt Al Shaab: New unfriendly gesture

IN A further manifestation of its hostility towards the Arab Nation and total disregard to Arabs' attempts at reaching a just peace, the U.S. administration vetoed a Lebanese resolution calling on the U.N. Security Council to force Israel to refrain from committing criminal actions against the Lebanese people. The veto did not only mean a shirking by Washington of its responsibility towards stability and peace but also an encouragement to Israel to pursue its aggressive policies.

By choosing this wrong stand the U.S. administration has thus opted to remain in the same trench with the Israeli enemy against the Arab Nation, which seeks to establish right and justice. The whole international community has condemned Israeli aggression and demanded a withdrawal of Israeli forces from South Lebanon, where Zionists have been committing massacres, but the United States continues to abet its ally to commit further criminal actions and eloquently expressed that at the council.

As it retreats from its commitments towards establishing peace, the United States is goading its ally to commit more and more atrocities against the Arabs. But Washington is thus risking its interests in the Middle East and its present policies are bound to make the U.S. pay a price that far exceeds what it is paying Israel now to escalate its oppressive policies in the region.

Gorbachev takeover signals little change in Geneva

By Sidney Welland
Reuter

GENEVA — Mikhail Gorbachev's accession to the Kremlin leadership may inject a softer tone into East-West relations, but no early Soviet switch on arms policy should be expected, Western experts said Wednesday.

NATO alliance analysts monitoring U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva rule out any quick shift in foreign policy, but say they are braced for "window dressing" changes to present Kremlin positions in a more attractive way.

Ultimately, the vigour and apparent decisiveness of the new 54-year-old Communist Party chief could rub off on foreign affairs and the arms negotiations, but this will be a protracted process, officials believe.

Most analysts think Soviet positions for the arms talks, which reopened Tuesday after a 15-month break, were worked out long ago, apparently with Mr. Gorbachev's personal involvement, and are unlikely to be quickly changed.

Chief Soviet negotiator Viktor Karpov disclosed here that Mr. Gorbachev presided over a meeting of the ruling politburo last week at which Soviet delegates received final instructions.

"Gorbachev seems pretty well locked into the Soviet view of the negotiations, unless he has some original thoughts of which we are unaware," a senior official said.

Other diplomats said Mr. Gorbachev could be forced into a reappraisal if the United States produces major new proposals.

The Soviet general secretary, on a visit to London last December, proved just as tough as other Soviet spokesmen in denouncing President Reagan's plans for space-based defences, his Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) as the primary issue at Geneva, and that its efforts to halt the U.S. research programme will take priority over negotiations on strategic and medium-range nuclear missiles.

Diplomats in Geneva and others contacted in NATO capitals cautioned against thinking of Mr. Gorbachev as a "closet liberal" because of his relative youth by Soviet leadership standards, his suave appearance and his direct, more open approach.

They said he must be seen as a product of a deeply entrenched bureaucracy with rigid views, and that he will face resistance from the Kremlin "old guard" if he tries to introduce radical changes.

Mr. Gorbachev is widely expected to make his first moves on economic policy, a field that has lagged for many years.

"I would be flabbergasted if I see any radical departures in their arms control policy," a NATO official said.

But the West should expect a gradual "repackaging" and possible change of style in foreign policy, "designed to show them less hidebound, less turgid and repellent."

There could be problems for the West if Mr. Gorbachev pressed a campaign to suggest a softer, more nuanced line.

Mr. Gorbachev would probably want to give the impression that he was receptive to new ideas, but it was questionable whether any early moves on foreign policy would have real meaning.

Already, his election has spurred renewed speculation about a summit meeting with Mr. Reagan. The president said Tuesday he was ready to meet Mr. Gorbachev "whenever we can", but the White House said that all the factors would have to be weighed, especially whether a summit would be beneficial to world peace.

Western officials said such constraints would also apply with Mr. Gorbachev. His predecessor, Konstantin Chernenko, used similar language as American officials in saying a summit was desirable but needed careful preparation to ensure results.



– Arab News

Haitian opinion leaders targeted for persecution

HAITIAN AUTHORITIES single out potential opinion leaders for arbitrary arrest, torture and political killing, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

Journalists, opposition leaders and trade unionists have been targeted by the secret police and President Jean-Claude Duvalier's militia, commonly known as the "tontons macoutes" ("bogeymen"), the worldwide human rights movement said in a new report.

Most arrests and detention take place outside any legal framework, without reference to courts, constitution or law, the report said.

Until 1977, arbitrary arrest, torture and killing were widespread and indiscriminate, affecting thousands of victims, the report said. Since that time, most victims known to Amnesty International appear to have been chosen more selectively. "Disappearance" and death in custody, beatings and other torture have not been reported on the same scale, but still occur.

Political prisoners are often held incommunicado for long periods, naked or almost naked, in damp, dark and dirty cells in the Casernes Dessalines, headquarters of the Service detectif (S.D.) the secret police. This barracks, near the presidential palace, is one of the biggest buildings in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Some prisoners have been held for several years without any public acknowledgement of their detention by the authorities. In the relatively few cases in which political prisoners have been given trials and these have been witnessed by international observers, they have not met international standards for fair trial.

Victims include those who stand up for human rights as well as people suspected of challenging government policy on other issues. Gerard Duclerville, a lay preacher arrested in December 1982, apparently for his work with the poor, said he was beaten until he asked his torturers to kill him "and get it over with". Released after appeals from the Catholic Church in Haiti and other organisations, he is reported to have needed skin grafts and other hospital treatment as a result of the beatings.

The work of the only independent human rights group in the country, the Haitian Human Rights League (Ligue haitienne des droits humains), was almost completely halted after a violent raid by men believed to be "tontons macoutes" in 1979. The attack on a meeting resulted in the death of radio journalist George Michel from head injuries. Dozens of other people were reported injured. Among those beaten up were Salesian Fathers, in whose school the meeting was held.

The report named political prisoners known to have been in prison in recent years who have "disappeared" while in custody.

It cited the testimony of a former soldier and former policemen that prisoners were killed by strangling at police headquarters and their bodies then shot and dumped in areas of Port-au-Prince known for a high crime rate. Former members of the "tontons macoutes" testified that arbitrary killings are justified by those responsible by describing the victim as a "kamokin" (traitor) or as having "said bad things against the government."

Many people are reported to have been imprisoned for trying to flee the country illegally. Amnesty International quoted eyewitness accounts of such people being arrested and beaten until they were bruised and bloody after bad weather forced their boat back to shore.

Among prisoners of conscience whose cases are described in the report are Sylvio Claude, founder of the opposition Christian Democrat Party, members of his family, his defence lawyer, associates and aides. Others include newspaper, radio and magazine journalists and publishers, and members of the armed forces said to have found in possession of opposition newspapers or accused of contact with the opposition.

Army Sergeant Bienvenue Theodore, seized in 1979, is believed to be still imprisoned without charge or trial after rebuking a soldier who said he wanted to shoot strikers during a labour dispute. Sergeant Theodore was reportedly accused of being a traitor and plotting against the government.

Amnesty International said Wednesday that since its report was written, it had learned of more arrests, including people who took part in church-run projects to help the poor. It received reports of at least 25 arrests in November 1984, including experts working on rural development projects and a protestant minister seized on his return from the U.S.A. The government has released few details on these arrests, most of which are believed to be for non-violent activity — Amnesty International news release.

Lafontaine triumph could swing SPD to the left

By Mark Wood
Reuter

BONN — The victory of anti-NATO radical Oskar Lafontaine in West Germany's Saarland state elections may help to swing the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) to the left and on to a course of outright opposition to U.S. defence policies.

Mr. Lafontaine, 41, Sunday swept a centre-right coalition from office to give the state its first-ever SPD government. Commentators Monday said the long-term impact on the party at a national level could be enormous.

An advocate of West Germany's withdrawal from NATO's military structure and the expulsion of U.S. nuclear forces, Mr. Lafontaine regards his party's present commitment to the alliance as outdated and dangerous.

"A Lafontaine victory at this time, when the SPD is still trying to find its role in the opposition, may push the party irrevocably towards the neutralist anti-American stand he represents," one radio commentator said.

Western diplomats said Monday that Mr. Lafontaine's triumph would cause unease among Bonn's allies, but added that they were waiting to see if he developed his anti-NATO role.

The right-wing newspaper Die Welt Monday said Mr. Lafontaine would now use his right as state leader to address the Bonn parliament and to launch an onslaught on West Germany's traditional defence and foreign policy positions.

For the past 30 years, the major West German parties have shared a consensus on the country's membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

But Mr. Lafontaine opposes the SPD leaders who have supported that course as much as he opposes the ruling conservatives.

The gifted orator already has a devoted following among younger SPD members and party Chairman Willy Brandt, a former chancellor, greeted his victory by describing Mr. Lafontaine as being in the forefront of a new generation of future leaders.

Political analysts said the impact of Mr. Lafontaine' win would be increased by the defeat of former Defence Minister Hans Apel, a party moderate, in Sunday's state election in West Berlin.

"The fact that Apel has done so badly will discredit the old guard in the SPD. It makes Lafontaine look all the more as if he has arrived on a white charger to rescue the party from oblivion," one diplomat commented.

LETTERS

People can be much nicer

To the Editor:

I JUST felt a tremulous urge to jot down these few lines, to expose and let out what has been smothering me for quite some time. At the same time, I feel that I have no right to complain, especially now, and deep inside me. I do believe that God will bestow his mercy and blessing on me and relieve me of what is annoying me — the trouble is that there is no specific complaint, but an overall, feeling of dissatisfaction with what is going on around me, especially when it comes to friends, family and people that circumstances compel me to see and meet at the office or at home.

God has been so merciful and has taken my hand and slowly and patiently led me onto the right track. I was an obedient and willing lamb and have accepted his guidance. There was hesitation at the beginning, but it seems that God, with his continuous care for people, must have witnessed my misery and saw fit to help and assist me. He must have seen signs of "goodness" in me, and saw that I deserved some of his mercy and blessing. But people who are "good" seem to have no place on this earth and, believe you me, I talk out of a lot of experience. This kind of people are taken for granted and are used, just like a machine, and as long as that machine is useful and in good condition, they go on using it, until the signs of "old age" appear, and finally when there is no hope at all of usurping this machine any longer, it is put away and discarded off as trash.

But a human being is different in that when it is over-used and usurped it can at least complain and ask for some kind of rest — if he is blessed with a strong personality, he can raise hell, at the risk of being fired — I think and agree that he should do that, especially, when he is deprived of his rights and what is lawfully his. He is entitled to respect and care — and money sometimes, I mean to say never, can or will compensate for the loss of self-esteem or dignity...

Most often, he is being accused of negligence or slackness, while the poor thing is doing his utmost to please and work his health off — expecting a word of thanks and a sign of gratitude — but "no sir"... a word of thanks has become too expensive and too difficult to utter — but what is cheaper and easier to do is pouring a long harangue of criticism. In either case that person is at the mercy of the whim of the man he is working for and people — most of them have no time to praise and lose time in petty words of thanks.

What most people do have the time for is *money* — lots and lots of it, time to accumulate it as fast as possible — they have become so materialistic, that in their occupation and complete indulgence in that respect, they are apt to lose what God has blessed us with.... emotions for others and care for their feelings, and some have even sold their conscience to the devil. Friends to these are friends as long as they are useful to them — even a family could become a scapegoat in the process for the search of that "Goal" ... These people intrigue me sometimes, and I ask myself if they think that all that pursuit for that material goal is worth it or not and the more they have, I have noticed, the greed for even much more becomes the only concern and aim in their lives...

I am a great believer in the theory that man is basically born good. Many circumstances arise which might lead him astray and to cause him to shake hands with the devil, who is willing to please and oblige. Some are lucky and persist in keeping their good qualities — even when they pursue fortune and prestige. They do not deviate from the right track but try hard to become rich in the way God wants his creatures to lead.

Hayat M. Abu Zeid,
Amman.

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Sahel Hamzeh,
Director General,
Aqaba Railway Corporation.



Community activities need better participation

Talking straight

Marwan Muasher

FOR THE past two months, I have been involved in an activity I feel is worth mentioning. It revolves around a group called the Amman Little League, whose objective for several years has been to organise several sports teams (football, basketball and baseball) for age groups ranging from elementary to high school.

The kids playing on these teams do not belong to any one particular school. Interested parents sign up their kids for league play for a nominal fee of JD 7. The league asks several companies in town to sponsor the teams for a promotion fee. Each kid is then assigned to a team, and is given a uniform bearing the sponsor's name.

Volunteer coaches, usually parents, friends or just interested individuals, assume the responsibility of training the kids. The teams go through a regular season, during which practices are held, games played, and standings kept. In the end, all the kids get to have medals for their participation.

The whole programme, so far as I can see, continues to have tremendous positive results on the children. It acts as a confidence booster for many who are otherwise relatively shy. It teaches kids, at an early age, not only about, say, basketball, but more importantly about how to be a part of a team, how to communicate with each other, and how to channel their individual contributions to the benefit of the whole team.

I write today, however, not so much to talk about the particulars of this programme as much as to point out to what I consider deficiencies in our attitude as grown-ups towards taking part in community activities.

First, I want to point out that the organisation of this particular programme was done very efficiently, and with relatively modest funding. The money came from companies operating locally. The courts, playfields and facilities were made available by local schools. The kids all live in Jordan. The organisers, coaches, and parents are all people living in Jordan.

In other words, the whole thing was done locally, with in-house capabilities. And yet there was one interesting phenomenon. Even though most of the participating kids were Jordanian, the percentage of Jordanian coaches, assistant coaches or team mothers was minimal. The percentage of Jordanians taking part in the organisation of the programme was almost non-existent.

This is by no means an angry reaction against such activities by foreigners in Jordan. On the contrary, such individuals are to be highly commended for putting their time and effort towards contributing to community activities in Jordan. If anything, it is a shameful reminder to us as Jordanians, that we continue to be too lazy to take the lead towards upgrading the quality of life here, or often too dependent on others to do so. If this sounds too harsh of a statement, it can best be proved wrong by more Jordanians caring for their society by taking part in more public activities.

The argument has been too often raised that the quality of life here is inferior to some other societies because of the lack of "advanced technology", funding, resources, or the like. The programme that I have mentioned is a perfect example, however, of an activity that does not need more than a little effort, willingness, and organisation. If some Jordanians approve of such activities by willingly signing up their kids for them, there is little excuse for them not to initiate such and other activities for the benefit of their own kids, let alone that of society.

We have been known to be apathetic about public affairs in general. Our sense of belonging certainly leaves much to be desired. Granted, we sometimes may have rason for such apathy, but for this lack of interest to extend to our homes is verging on the ridiculous.

Jordanians in general are not used to participating in community affairs. Where clubs are present, they are few in number, often exclusive, and cater for the needs of few. Charity organisations exist, but many lack proper organisation or prosper only because of the efforts of few dedicated members.

In the area of child development, little work is done. The Haya Arts Centre is an example of an institution attempting to contribute in this field, but it is obvious that we need many more such attempts.

A big part of the problem is that parents have traditionally relied on schools and the government for providing children with the proper education and facilities for their development. It goes without saying that with the proper resources, neither schools nor the government can fill the void properly. It is an arena where the private sector, whether in the form of individuals, groups or institutions, can and should help.

The point that cannot be overstated here is that we need to devote more of our time and effort for public affairs. We cannot continue to only complain about life here or shrug our shoulders off and expect things to improve on their own.

We have been rightly accused of being a society too obsessed with seriousness. Among other reasons, being too indulged in only work is not usually a reason for one to be cheerful about. Participating in community activities, and better yet, helping organise them, may do more than upgrading the quality of life of our children. It may even do wonders to our own.

Channel 6 Preview

By John Boteler

Hollywood — heaven for some

"THIS UNIQUELY American Industry" claimed Charlton Heston, as he used the **"Tribute to Alfred Hitchcock"** last Wednesday, to plug the American Film Institute. This programme, so long and eagerly awaited by this column, turned out to be a sad disaster. The opening clip should have warned us. A scene from the early 1960's series **"Hitchcock's Half-Hour"** had the master welcoming us "to darkest Hollywood. It's so quiet you can hear a name drop." And hear them we did. After a stream of famous and not so famous film personalities had told us how many films they had acted/produced/edited or whatever, justifying their free meal with a wave and a "Hiya Hitch," we were treated to an insane ten minutes during which a clutch of other personalities passed the microphone and spotlight on to each other, with each one only having enough time to introduce the next. It represented nothing so much as an insane game of "pass the parcel" with a live bomb. Highlight was when it was Sean Connery's turn, and old Alf was seen leaning across the Gregory Peck and whispering frantically. Mr. Connery immediately enlightened us: "Who's that, *he* asks? It's *me* Hitch!" Well, thanks Sean, but if he really was asking who you were then I doubt that "It's *me*" really helped him much. What was more likely was that he was asking how much longer he was to be subjected to this torture. Quite some time yet, I'm afraid. He yet had to suffer a French producer who apologised that his English was not very good, and then went on to prove it. For those who managed to stay awake the last five minutes of this grisly charade were a shining gem in this rusty tiara. Hitchcock, who spent most of the programme looking uncomfortably, lumbered to his feet and delivered a speech that in content, wit, pacing and, most telling, dignity, was streets ahead of anything and all that had gone before. Like his art, so the man.

"This uniquely American Industry." As an exercise in P.R., this was an unfortunate remark. Germany not only produced the first films ever made, but also provided all the early cinema pioneers in America. France was a cinematic giant at the beginning of this century, and today is still a major force. Even poor old England has occasionally had its two-pennies-worth to offer, (Hitchcock was, of course, British— himself). But no: "Uniquely American". So be it. Perhaps Mr. Heston had in mind that uniquely American cinematic experience suffered by stars and producers alike; the black list. From Charlie Chaplin to Joseph Losey all felt the dark hand of Senator Joseph McCarthy and his Senate Committee of Unamerican Activities in the 1950's. Those producers who didn't stay in Hollywood, contributing to the endless glut of ideologically "safe" films which helped make the fifties such a depressing decade for the cinema, fled to Europe. Losey himself made a whole sequence of successful films (The Servant, Blow-up, The Go-Between) far away from Tinsel Town. The McCarthy purges had their root of course in the persecution of Alger Hiss (**"Concealed Enemies"**, Tuesday 9:10). Mr. Hiss served as an advisor to President Roosevelt at the Yalta conference and later became director of the Office of Special Political Affairs in the State Department. Last week's episode, (which I only managed to see due to stirling work by my good friend Belinda — for which, many thanks) demonstrated graphically the paranoia of the times of America towards Communism. Hiss's old friend is sacked by the law firm he works for owing to their abject terror at being seen to be involved in any way with a Communist. When Hiss asks why investigating committee doesn't delve more deeply into whether Chambers/Crossley, "a self-confessed liar, spy and traitor" was ever an alcoholic or had been in a mental home, rather than just taking his word on the subject, they reply that Hiss's accusations are a "typical Communist smear". We also see that Nixon displayed, from an early age, a fond predilection for secret tapes and covert surveillance. (We don't harass hapless civil servants or "bug" telephones in England, of course!) For my money, Hiss is innocent. Not only does it seem a bit unjust to expect him to remember exactly what happened to his car fully twelve year before, but someone as shifty looking and ugly — extensive dental work or not — as Chambers simply has to be a bad 'un. But it is worrying the way that Hiss prevaricates and dodges with his punctiliously "legal" answers. This week's episode is called **"Accussation"**. No doubt all eventually will be revealed; aided by a fine musical score and a broody, tense atmosphere, this series is looking very promising indeed.

But then it needs to be, sandwiched as it is between **"Star of the Family"** (8.30) and **"Hardcastle and McCormick"** (7:15). The former's "comedy" label is surely open to a prosecution under the Trades Description Act. This week Jennie gets angry when Daddy encourages Duggie's romance with some girl, but gets annoyed with Jennie going all soppy-eyed over **"The Boy-Next-Door"**. Lots of going-on about women's rights, but it sounds to me more like a case for early bedtime and no hot milk-for the entire family! **"Hardcastle and McCormick"** is almost as ridiculous. The sight of a geriatric judge and a hot-rod driver trading wooden dialogue and bad jokes, and playing childish games with each other is complemented by a car chase every seventeen minutes, and old, predictable plots. Last week saw a reworking of films such as Dirty Harry's **"Magnum Force"**, and **"Star Chamber"** — the police becoming judge, jury and executioner. Hardcastle thwarted the evil old men who rode about town on their Harley Davidsons, blowing away all and sundry, by the simple means of getting himself patched into Nationwide T.V. This week no doubt, he will become quarter-back in the superbowl, as he tries to find out who murdered a football player in **"Third down and Twenty Years to Life"**. One thing does puzzle me. With all these dangerous criminals around, how come McCormick can always leave his car unlocked and with the key in the ignition? The answer, probably, is that he is a member of either the Gambino, Cantaloupo, or Colombo families, who, according to **"Crime Inc."** (Sunday 9:10), now own all of America, and possibly the entire Western world. Last week saw their widespread practice of loan-sharking (does this explain Reagan's hiking of interest rates?!), how they control all refuse-collection, ("as long as they keep it clean I don't care who collects the garbage"), weddings and garment industries coast-to-coast. What was even more chilling was how their control over Newark, New Jersey, "skimming" of profits, and wholesale corruption were a direct cause of the race-riots there in 1970 and the eventual death of a once-thriving city. Tomorrow's episode is the last in the series — **"The Future Of Organised Crime"**. The illegal supply of narcotics has presented opportunities for lucrative profiteering last seen in the days of the prohibition. However, the huge demand for illegal drugs has spawned independent criminal organisations amongst other ethnic American groups. Does the rapid rise of such new — and equally ruthless — criminal forces represent a serious challenge to the Mafia establishment? Will a struggle for supremacy in the narcotics market result in escalating violence? And what are the future implications for the already hard-pressed law enforcement agencies? Not very good, I suspect.

The rest of this weekend's entertainment has another episode of **"Orson Welles's Great Mysteries"** at 8:30 tonight — **"The Dinner Party"**. The feature film at 10:15 is **"The Double Man"**. Yul Brynner plays a CIA agent who is trying to find out the cause of his son's death. It's a spy thriller with, apparently, some novel twists. The bald hero is helped through the dangers of the pistes by bouncy Britt Ekland.

Apart from **"Crime Inc"**, tomorrow has **"Don't Wait Up"** at 8:30. This week poor old Madeleine is absent again from Latimer Senior's office and Tom has the bright idea of getting his mother to work as his father's secretary. It's good to see that he is getting his own back on the evil lawyer Harvey Cramer. At 10:15 there's **"Scarecrow and Mrs. King"** where Amanda and Lee get involved in a nasty business involving guttural East Europeans, fat cat bankers and instant chicken.

This week's episode of **"Duty Free"** (Monday 8:30) is **"Bedroom Farce"**. Amyps suspicions are aroused by David and Linda's midnight swim, and stolid old Robert also begins to suspect that they're up to no good. I would have thought that it was obvious from the first episode. In **"Sorrel and Son"**. (9:10), while Kit goes from strength to strength at the hospital the re-emergence of Maurice Petreath leads him to a reunion with Molly. But her independent ways and views on Women's Liberation only bring him sadness and confusion. It's time for tissues and long faces at 10:15, with the last episode of **"The Yellow Rose"**. A killer from Chance's past comes to the ranch seeking revenge and bent on murder. Will he succeed? Will the Yellow Rose Ranch be bought up by J.R. Ewing? Whatever, I just hope and pray it's not replaced by **"Love Boat"**!

In **"Up the Elephant and round the Castle"** (Wednesday 8:30) chirpy Jin's Sunday lie-in is constantly interrupted by friends. Cor blimey, wotcher mate, this is all a bit how's-your-father, innit? There's a documentary at 9:10, a co-production between BBC and Jordan T.V., on the earth's physical resources. A gloomy, but much needed, warning about the falling reserves of oil, the shameful waste of food, and pollution of the seas and forests. Where have all the flowers gone? Killed by acid-rain. No shortage of resources in **"Hotel"** (10:15) of course. All the guests appear to stay in the ultra expensive suites. All the guests we see, that is. Which is just as well. Witnessing the things that the well-heeled get up to each week it's lucky that we are at least spared the sordid goings-on of the hoi polloi. This week Christine gets lumbered with Mrs. Cabot's vile nephew (hurray), and Billy, fresh from his triumphs of last week, gets his come-uppance when his dying father turns up at the hotel. "Gee, Dad, that's too bad, but perhaps I can help. Jasmine sweet is generally used for kicking the bucket, and I do believe it's free. It's your lucky day!"

In **"Three's Company"** (Thursday 8:30) this week Jack and Janet want their apartment repaired. Manager Mr. Furley is willing, but there's no budget for maintenance. Pressure on Furley's brother Bart — the scrooge-like owner of the building — backfires into Furley's being fired and Jack unhappily installed as manager. Cindy has a bright idea and the underdog emerges winner. At 9:10 there's a feature film — **"Gideon's Trumpet"** starring Henry Fonda, Jose Ferrer, and Fay Wray, still going strong after evading the amorous clutches of King Kong all those years ago. This made for T.V. movie is based on the award-winning book by Anthony Lewis, the real life story of Clarence Gideon (Fonda), a drifter with little education who was arrested in the early 1960's for breaking and entering. The supreme court decided that he was entitled to a lawyer, even though he could not afford to pay for one himself.

The inimitable Ronnie Barker continues to shine in his superb portrayal of stammering Arkwright in **"Open All Hours"** (Friday 8:30), beset by his nephew, Granville, and a vicious, man-eating till. This week, despite being kept at arm's length by Nurse Gladys, he has never lost hope that love will finally triumph.

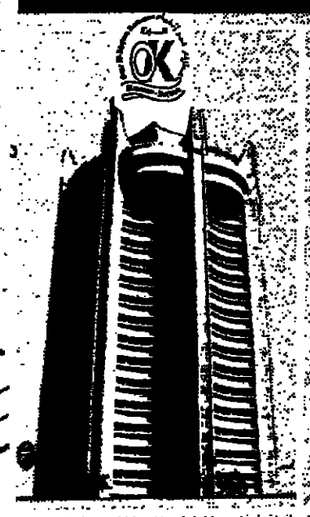
But his optimism is dealt a severe blow when an old flame of hers arrives and is met with open arms. **"Murder She Wrote"** at 9:10 soldiers on while at 10:15 there's a real rave from the grave. **"The Anatomist"** is a BBC play-of-the-month and concerns itself with the juicy subject of Burke and Hare. In the early nineteenth century medical science was a bit short of donor cadavres. The powers that be turned a blind eye to body-snatching (the exhumation of recently interred stiffs). However, Burke and Hare got tired of all that spade work and thought that progress would be better served with still-warm samples; so they entered in on a phase of quick murder and speedy despatch. Yum, Yum.

If you are still not satisfied then there is still Channel 3 **"That's Incredible"** (Tomorrow, Sunday, 6:10) has loads of the bizarre and the ridiculous. Last week starred a racoon called Roxy, who painted abstracts and washed up afterwards, **"Trauma Centre"** enthralls on Tuesday at the same time, as does **"Moonfleet"** on Wednesday. Blackbeards diamond is hidden in a well in Carisbroke castle. Unfortunately the castle is full of French prisoners-of-war and guarded day and night by a strong garrison. John and Elzevir must take great care as they search for the jewel. Have a happy week.



Riding off into the sunset — "The Yellow Rose", Monday 10:15

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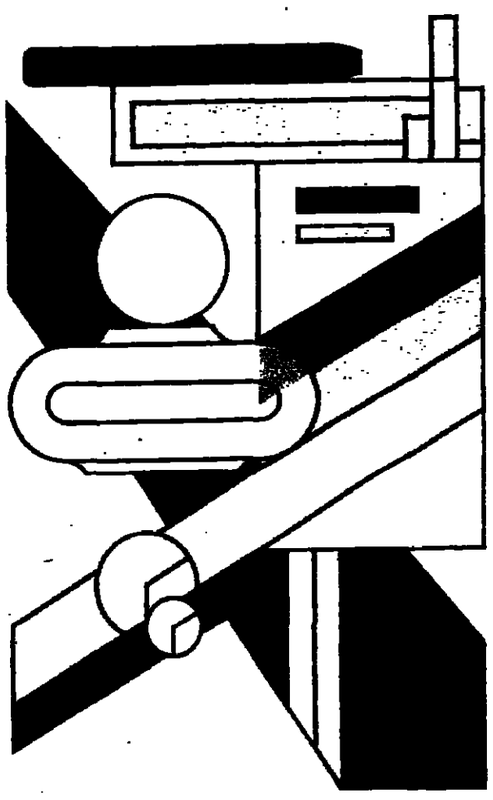
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عالية مدفنا المسافر وخدمته

The Customer is our Business

Dirani drives Nissan to Jerash Rally victory

Text and Photos
By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Nabil Dirani and co-driver Gordon Almond Friday drove their Nissan RS 240 to victory in the Rothmans-Jerash Rally, the first of three national rallying events of the season.

George Khayyat (co-driver Kieth Ferry) clocked 51 minutes and 0.2 seconds to Dirani's 50 minutes and 30 seconds in an identical car and was placed second, followed by Haitam Mufti (co-driver Bill Gwynne) in a Daihatsu Charmant.

Hamed Ghazi (co-driver Nabil Dabbas), came in fourth in an Opel Manta with a timing of 51 minutes and 36 seconds and Suhail Marar (co-driver Jiries Sawalha) fifth in a Toyota Corolla GT.

Emad Jabri (co-driver Mu'awia Zabian) clinched sixth place in a Daihatsu Charmant and the Datsun 160J of Ghazi Zeitoun (co-driver Hisham Zeitoun) was placed seventh.

Nabil Karam, a renowned rally driver since 1981 when the sport was seriously taken up and organised as a regular event by the Royal Automobile Club (RAC), secured eight place in 56 minutes and 31 seconds, despite a minor disaster during the early stages of the race. Karam's car went off the track and had to be pulled out and placed back on course resulting in the enthusiastic driver losing some five minutes.

Others who finished Friday's event were (car, co-driver and timing in brackets): Mithkal Asfour (Volvo 244 — Nocola Billen — 51:55), Ibrahim Bisharat (Toyota Corolla — Khader Kassir — 58:10), Yazid Abu Jaber (Audi 80 LS — Ibrahim Karaghossian — 1:01:14), Hassan Alaeddin (BMW 320 — Mohammad Shaban — 1:02:12), Ousama Jabbour (Daihatsu Charmant — Walid Mujaher — 1:03:05), Salah Safo (Fiat 131 — Omar Shahin — 1:04:08), George Haddad (Toyota Celica — Fawzi Sawalha — 1:07:[illegible] Mazen Khabbazeh (Peugeot 604 — Jamal Khabbazeh — 1:14:59), Rafa'at Jabri (Fiat Ritmo — Yousef Daoud — 1:25:47) and Nihad Rizk (Toyota Land Cruiser — Adnan As'ad — 1:30:42).

One of the highlights of Friday's event was the relatively high number of participants who managed to make it to the finish line.

Eighteen of the 24 cars flagged off from the RAC at one-minute intervals survived the gruelling 223 kilometres to the Jerash Visitor's Centre and back, manoeuvring through the twisty, mountainous tracks near the King Talal Dam and the dense woods of Dibbin.

George Haddad (co-driver Fawzi Sawalha), one of the early favourites to win the event, suffered a major setback in a special stage near the Zarqa River when his Toyota Celica GT went off the track and landed in a ditch.

"I guess it was due a misjudge on my part," Haddad told the Jordan Times. "I took a curve a little too fast and the next thing we were stuck in a ditch."

However, Haddad managed to put the vehicle back on the track but not before some 15 precious minutes were wasted.

The mishap cost him the rally, as his overall standing, which was in the top three before the car went off the track, dipped to the last two or three.

"I am now out of contention," Haddad said during the break at Jerash. "Only for the sake of finishing am I continuing the rally."

Most drivers, including the driver of an RAC vehicle which took journalists through the "special stages", agreed that it was driving skill rather than machine power under test on Friday.

"The tracks did not really punish the cars," said Suhail Marar, one of the prominent rally drivers in Jordan. "Everything depended on how the driver could manoeuvre through the sharp curves and uneven roads," he said.

"In some other parts, the tracks were slippery, making it difficult for the driver to keep an even pace."

Friday's event was split into two phases. The first phase included five "special stages" through Kasarat Naour, Zai, Beka'a, Alouk, and across River Zarqa to the King Talal Dam and Dibbin before reaching the Jerash Visitor's Centre.

The first car, Haddad's Toyota, was flagged off at 9.30 a.m. from the RAC. However, because of the mishap near the river, Haddad was delayed and the first car to reach Jerash was Khayyat's Nissan.

The second phase was the return leg to Amman which started at 2.30 p.m. when the cars were flagged off from the ancient Roman city. Khayyat was in pole position at the start of the second phase, according to regulations which stipulate that cars which led the timing score in the first phase will be the ones leading the start-off in the next phase.

In the second phase the special stage at Zai was eliminated because of visibility considerations.

All cars, with the exception of those which broke down en route, returned to the RAC, the first car arriving at 4.30 p.m. Provisional results were announced one hour later.

One of the notable absentees from Friday's event was David Jepson, who won the National Rally Championship last year. Jepson's Talbot Sunbeam was delayed at London Heathrow airport because of shipping procedural problems and the veteran driver had to be on the sidelines Friday in the absence of his vehicle.

This did not discourage the British driver though. He was seen totting a camera and encouraging the drivers with a "V" for victory sign near a special stage through the dusty hillside off the King Talal Dam.

Randa Nabulsi (co-driver Nariman Shtayeh), the only female driver in Friday's event, did well in the first phase, but had to abandon the race towards the end because of a mechanical problem that hit her Morris Mini 1275 GT.

Michael Saleh, a seasoned rally driver from Kuwait, was also seen busy Friday giving advice to Nabil Karam, who was driving Saleh's Opel Ascona 400. Saleh, who drove a Toyota Celica to fourth place in the Qatar leg of the 1985 Middle East Rally Championship in January, has switched cars.

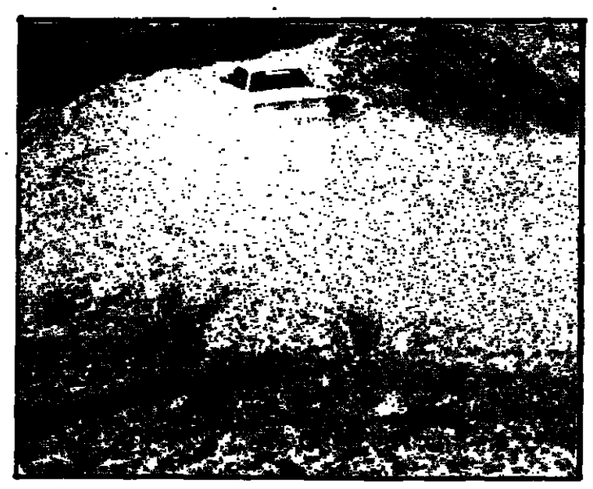
Saleh described the route selected by the RAC for Friday's event as "excellent".

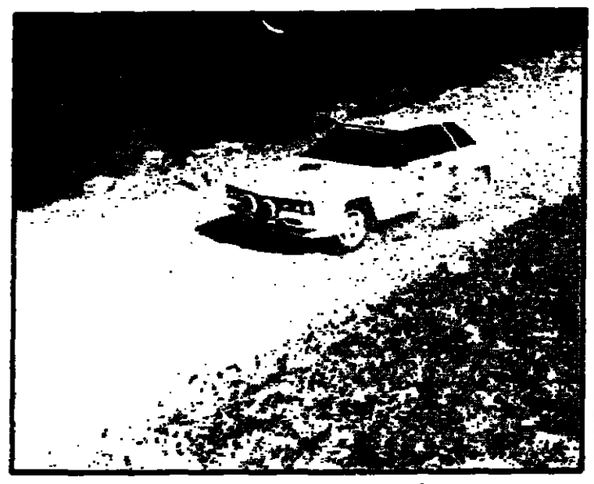
"The terrain included in Friday's rally demands the best of the driver's skills," he said. "Having a powerful car does not mean much when you are faced with slippery curves and uneven slopes."

Jerash Rally event was the first of three National Rally Championship Rallies. The other two are scheduled to be held in May and November.

In addition, the Jordan leg of the 1985 Middle East Rally Championship is slated to be held in July when participants from the Gulf Arabs states and possibly Cyprus will match their skill against Jordanian drivers.

"In fact, we have adopted international standards for all national rallies," a senior RAC official told the Jordan Times. "It will help our drivers to upgrade their performances and provide valued experience," he said.









Nabil Dirani's Nissan RS 240 (top left) winds its way along a special stage route near King Talal Dam followed by George Khayyat in an identical car (top right) in Friday's Jerash Rally. Runners-up Khayyat relaxes during a break between special stages (bottom left). Even a Volkswagen Beach Buggy (bottom right) took part in the rally, the first rallying event of the season in Jordan, alongwith other cars ranging from Toyota Celica, Volvo, BMW and Austin to Morris Mini and Toyota Land Cruiser.

Jordan defeats Qatar in World Cup match

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's World Cup campaign started Friday with a victory against Qatar in an Asian Group One Sub-Group B qualification match.

Jordan secured victory through Issam Al Taly who scored the only goal of the match in the 40th minute of the second half.

A magnificent header by Al Taly from a corner taken by Khaled Awad gave Jordan a much needed triumph against Olympic finalists Qatar.

Jordan dominated the second half with substitute Rateb Al Dsoud playing a leading role in Jordan's continuous pressure at the Qatari goal.

Qatar who arrived here Wednesday night had a tough two-weeks training period in Saudi Arabia playing various teams in preparation for Friday's match, but found a determined Jordanian side a tough nut to crack. Qatar is also reputed to be a leading soccer power in the Arab Gulf.

25,000 spectators were treated to a brilliant display of football by both teams, but the Qataris seemed to weaken in the second half giving Jordan a golden opportunity to score their first ever World Cup victory.

Toleman pulls out of Formula One

LONDON (R) — British motor racing team Toleman said that they were withdrawing from the 1985 Formula One World Championship.

The announcement follows months of negotiations which have failed to secure Toleman motorsport a tyre contract for the forthcoming Grand Prix season.

"It's a hard and soul destroying decision to take, but one which we're forced into," Ted Toleman, the group's chairman, said.

Toleman added: "No-one, for reasons best known to themselves, is prepared to supply us with tyres, following the withdrawal of Michelin from racing last year and, with no tyres, companies are not prepared to support the team commercially."

Toleman motorsport's decision will come as a big disappointment to Sweden's Stefan Johansson — already named by the team for the 1985 season — and Northern Irishman John Watson, who was planning a Grand Prix comeback with Toleman this season.

Watson, winner of five Grands Prix, was unable to find a place in last year's World Championship after being replaced by McLaren at the end of the 1983 season.

Toleman managing director Alex Hawkridge said that it was clear the Toleman team "were not wanted in Formula One.

"We have beaten all the big names except McLaren and we have obviously become an embarrassment. According to one source we have become too competitive."

Hawkridge added: "It's taken us four years to fight our way to the front in Formula One and now, just when we are in a position to win races, this happens. Naturally, I'm disappointed and very angry."

Cosmos expelled by NASL

NEW YORK (R) — Professional soccer in the United States, reeling from financial problems, took a step towards extinction Thursday when the North American Soccer League (NASL) expelled the New York Cosmos, it's most popular team.

The league's interim president, Clive Toye, said the board of directors had voted to expel the Cosmos for failing to honour a financial commitment for the 1985 outdoor season.

He cited the Cosmos' decision not to post a $150,000 letter of credit by last December 25 as being 'a handicap in the league's efforts to attract new member clubs'.

The action effectively ended hopes that the league could draw up a viable schedule for the new season. Only three teams — Toronto, Minnesota and Tulsa — have committed to play.

"The action against the Cosmos is part of our general, overall reorganisation," league spokesman Jim Henderson said.

A statement said "an announcement on the future plans of the league will be made soon."

The Cosmos' official position was that they would have no comment, coach Ray Klivecka told Reuters by telephone. But he added the matter was in the hands of the club's attorneys.

"Right now I'm just talking to a gentleman who represents a bunch of players in Europe. As a coach, I'm proceeding with my schedule to get ready for outdoor competition," he said.

The team had already announced plans for a 15-game series of friendly matches with international teams outside the auspices of the North American League.

The Cosmos brought the league credibility by signing such international stars as Pele, Franz Beccenbauer, Trevor Francis and Carlos Alberto. They won more championships — five — than any other team in the league's 15-year history.

In the late 1970s they drew as many as 78,000 fans to league matches while also packing their stadium for games against top international clubs.

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Water Authority of Jordan invites all contractors who purchased the tender document 66/85/M2 of MAFRAQ Water and Sewerage Project to collect addendum No. (1) from the tender department at the Water Authority's main office in Amman.

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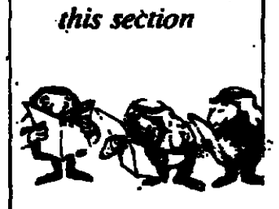
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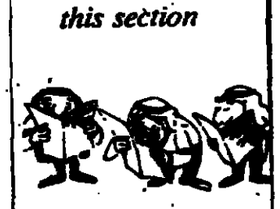
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'Man of Progress'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — During Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's visit to the United States, the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt and the Egypt-U.S. Business Council honoured the president with the "Man of Progress Award."

In accepting the award March 13, President Mubarak said the cooperation of the American and Egyptian business communities "symbolised the partnership we want to establish and cement between our two peoples."

Dr. Richard Lesher, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, who presented the award, said that a Man of Progress is "a man of his word, and a man of his deed."

In his acceptance speech President Mubarak said, "contrary to what many people here think, we don't want our bilateral relations to be based on need." He added, "in fact, we hate to see our economy dependent on foreign aid at all."

"We have to seek help from our friends for a temporary phase until we put our economy back on track," he said. He pointed out that Egypt's entire infrastructure must be rebuilt.

"We want you to be our partners in this process of transformation," he said. This will require, he said, the sharing of technology and know-how.

President Mubarak stressed that Egyptian investment opportunities, "are very good by any standard." He also stated, "There is no retreat, whatsoever, from the open door policy."

He stressed a number of his government's priorities including the creation of new jobs, increasing exports and the elimination of waste. He noted, "The government cannot do all that alone."

"The level of U.S. business participation falls short of our expectations," Mr. Mubarak said. He does not believe the level represents "the capacity of the American business community," and that "there is no reason for hesitation or over caution," on the part of potential investors. "We are fighting the red tape and bureaucracy. Come fight with us," he said.

The award took the form of a large piece of crystal etched with an eagle. An eagle was chosen, according to Mr. Lesher, since it is the symbol of both Egypt and the United States.

Mr. Sultan Abu Ali, the Vice-Chairman of the Egyptian Investment Authority, also spoke at the dinner, as did former U.S. Senator Charles Percy.

The Egyptian president was given "The Man of Progress Award" for the decade since "his understanding of the needs for a strong, private economy, increased efficiency in government and financially sound economic policies have raised hope for a new era of progress for the people of Egypt."

Commenting on Mr. Mubarak's remarks about Egyptian red tape and bureaucracy, Mr. Sultan Abu Ali said the government is doing its best and "we hope more will be done in this respect."

Will new British budget revitalise economy?

LONDON (R) — British Finance Minister Nigel Lawson delivers his second budget next Tuesday under markedly less favourable circumstances than a year ago, when he was hailed by the ruling Conservatives as a radical reformer.

A costly coal miners' strike, just ended, and a sterling crisis at the start of the year have limited the prospects for major tax cuts heralded by Mr. Lawson as his favoured method of revitalising the economy.

Financial institutions are increasingly critical of his attempts to hold down public spending, industry is alarmed by a rise in real interest rates to record levels and members of his own party have attacked the absence of an exchange-rate policy.

The convention by which Britain's chancellor of the exchequer goes into purdah-like retreat in the weeks before the budget has helped to shield him somewhat from a deluge of unsolicited advice on how to slice the fiscal cake.

Some of the severest strictures have come from within his own ranks. The Tory reform group castigated the government's "illogical" economic policies in a pre-budget brief.

The group called on Mr. Lawson to bring in a budget that would create jobs for some of Britain's 3-1/4 million unemployed by spending at least £2 billion ($2.15 billion) on a selective public investment programme.

"It is not a question of affording to tackle unemployment — it is a question of affording to continue to tolerate it," the Conservative pressure group said.

"We shall, of course, be told that such a course carries a risk of higher inflation. The alternative, to do nothing, carries the certainty that the situation will worsen further," the group added.

Indications are that Mr. Lawson will reject any such course of action. A public expenditure policy document published in late January showed he was budgeting for an inflation-adjusted drop of almost 1-1/2 per cent in public spending in the coming year.

The paper acknowledged that spending this year was well above target, a development that has worried the financial world which believes it has contributed to the weakness of sterling.

At around $1.08, the pound stands just above a record low of $1.036 when Mr. Lawson delivered his first budget speech.

Mr. Lawson has chosen to wait until the budget to reveal the full cost of the one-year pit dispute. Government officials have hinted it will be well over £2 billion ($2.2 billion) and private economists have put the cost at £3 billion ($3.3 billion) or more.

Economist Gavyn Davies of London stockbrokers Simon and Coates said in a recent article that Mr. Lawson was likely to respond to the sterling crisis with a defensive budget.

This would include lower public expenditure and a reduction in planned tax cuts of up to £1.5 billion ($1.6 billion) that Mr. Lawson had hoped to announce this year.

Mr. Davies said Mr. Lawson's objective would be to impress the markets enough to bring down interest rates from the record real levels to which they were hoisted earlier this year in an attempt to prop up sterling.

"This negative approach would simultaneously put at risk the economic recovery on which this government politically depends ... and would expose the government's strategy to be nothing more than one of old-fashioned deflation," Mr. Davies said.

One of Britain's top four banks, National Westminister, has advised Mr. Lawson to reject the deflationary approach and instead deliver a modestly expansionary budget.

The mood surrounding the budget was one of "muddle and uncertainty", said the bank's economic adviser Mr. David Lomax.

His pre-budget report advised Mr. Lawson to raise his public borrowing requirement — the gap between government income and spending — slightly from the £7 billion ($7.4 billion) set last year.

This would feed economic growth of about three per cent a year, promote a strong balance of payments and keep inflation at around five per cent — "a combination which is as good as the historic experience of the U.K. during the post-war boom."

Treasury sources say, in Mr. Lawson's defence, that he faces greater uncertainty than usual about the movement of economic variables such as exchange and interest rates and oil prices.

His budget is likely to assume a small rise in the value of sterling against the dollar in 1985-86 and a drop in domestic interest rates.

Aside from the advice Mr. Lawson is getting on how to juggle the nation's balance sheets, businessmen are also calling on him to build on his record as a market-oriented reformer.



Nigel Lawson

The Forum of Private Business, grouping small firms, has said its members may have to lay off workers if interest rates remain high. It also wants Mr. Lawson to simplify employment rules and regulations to enable them to expand.

Lebanon's pound finally cracks under strain

BEIRUT — Since the outbreak of civil war in Lebanon in 1975, the country's only apparently indestructible asset has been its currency. Now even that is cracking under the strain.

Since February the Lebanese pound has been falling to a new lows against the dollar and provoked a leading Beirut academic to predict that any further deterioration of the economy could provoke "a social explosion which will make the present anarchy in west Beirut look like a bar room brawl".

The precipitate fall in the value of the pound inevitably means higher inflation and a further decline in living standards in a country where up to 80 per cent of goods consumed are imported and where a third of the workforce is either without a job or seriously underemployed.

This is compounded by the failure of the euphemistically termed "Government of National Unity" to reconcile the warring factions. Until that happens the government will be able to raise only a fraction of its revenue requirements and the central bank will have to continue printing money to pay the bills.

Economists and bankers here estimate that inflation last year ran at a rate of about 50 per cent or so — about twice the official estimate.

By the middle of this year there is a real danger that Lebanon could be in the same league of hyperinflation and currency depreciation as Israel or Bolivia. But it has little chance of outside assistance unless the government can assert itself.

In this context the bomb blasts outside three Beirut banks recently — claimed by the Islamic Jihad (Holy War) "Brigade for Protecting the Poor in Lebanon" — could be a dire portent.

Whether the attacks were carried out by religious extremists, left-wing agitators or any other elements in the belief that they have a vested interest in the total destabilisation of Lebanon, the explosions were a clear protest related to the remorseless depreciation of the pound which started last year and alleged speculation by banks, which should know better.

When President Gemayel was sworn into office in September 1982 following the assassination of his brother Bashir $1 was worth L£4.32. This was not an unreasonable rate considering the ravages of conflict which left more than 100,000 dead and had reduced gross domestic product by 40 per cent in real terms before the Israeli invasion.

The average rate of depreciation of the pound up to the end of 1982 was "about equal to the difference between domestic and foreign rates of price inflation," according to Dr. Nasser Saidi, a Lebanese professor of economics at Geneva University.

However, the fatal blow was delivered in February last year when the Shi'ite and Druze militias wrested control of west Beirut from the army — splitting it in the process — following six months of curfew and heavy-handed authority from the essentially Christian-directed Lebanese forces.

In 1983, exports dropped by half and net income from services was down by 40 per cent. Weapons purchased after President Amin Gemayel's accession to power at a cost of $1 billion had already been a major drain on public finances and are estimated by his opponents to have caused $2 billion worth of damage.

Be that as it may, the confidence-shattering events nearly a year ago occurred as remittances from expatriate Lebanese began to dry up. The recession set in in the Gulf and expatriate Lebanese showed their declining faith in their country's future by placing reduced savings elsewhere.

Lebanon's balance of payments, perenially in surplus until 1982, sustained a deficit of $930 million in 1983 and one of $1.4 billion in 1984.

Last year the central bank's foreign exchange reserves dropped by $1.2 billion with the decline almost wholly accounted for by $520 million used in currency support operations and $763 million to meet the government's foreign exchange requirements. That left $620 million at the end of last year, only enough to cover public sector imports of fuel, wheat and sugar until the early summer with nothing to spare for any more support of the pound.

Earlier last month reserves were down to $350-400 million, according to Mr. Dany Chamoun, son of Finance Minister Mr. Camille Chamoun and deputy leader of his National Liberal Party, who cited his father as his source.

With commodity imports running at $60-70 million a month, the reduction lends credence to the belief that the government is still using foreign currency to buy weapons.

In December, the International Monetary Fund advised the central bank to stop providing foreign exchange to pay for public sector imports. No other source of dollars is immediately in sight.

Lebanon's gold reserves of 9.2 million ounces remain sacrosanct, the only cover for the battered pound. Equally critical is the government's financial position.

In 1984, its deficit was L£9.18 billion, almost as much as projected expenditure. It was covered by a L£6 billion increase in borrowing from the central bank and a L£3 billion net rise in outstanding treasury bills now yielding a 16 to 18 per cent interest rate payable up front.

Their sale has been made possible by excess liquidity in the banks as a result of the banks lacking other sound lending opportunities. But even at such yields they are becoming reluctant to subscribe. The fact is that revenue in prospect this year may well not be sufficient to redeem government paper and interest on it.

Control of the ports is of fundamental importance and at the heart also of the underlying political malaise.

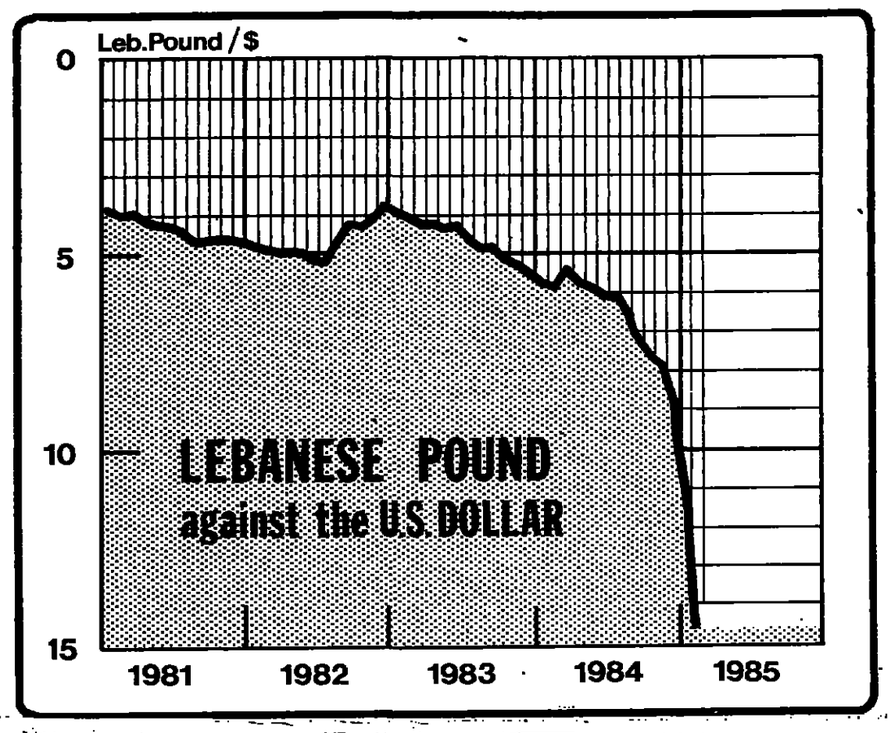
Last year customs duty should have brought in about L£3 billion but receipts for the state were only about L£400 million because the bulk of imports passed through the "illegal ports" — Sunni Muslim dominated Tripoli in the north, Jounieh in the Christian heartland and, until recently, Beirut port's fifth basin.

If a coherent will to save the situation could be formulated then it might just be possible to mobilise the necessary financial aid and balance of payments support required, in particular the $1.6 billion pledged in 1979 by the Arab oil producers but never paid.

Other development funds pledged by Western European donors can be of little use in the short-term.

All sane Lebanese aware of the basic economic facts agree that there can be no salvation without a political solution and the restoration of security in all areas theoretically under government control.

At this crucial juncture, meanwhile, any major outbreak of civil strife since the first phase of the Israeli withdrawal from the area around Sidon could wreck the prospects of a lasting reconciliation for ever and reduce Lebanon indefinitely to desolate Third World poverty — Financial Times news feature.



Cocoa talks fail

GENEVA (R) — Talks on a new international cocoa agreement ended Friday with producers and consumers still divided over price levels for a paci aimed at stabilising the volatile world cocoa market, delegates said. The talks, which started on Feb. 19 involved 70 countries which account for most of world trade in the commodity. The present accord expires at the end of September.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part ot the day finds it necessary for you to use a considerable amount of tact and diplomacy in all of your relationships, so be cautious. The evening is much better.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can avoid arguments where business is conerned in the morning, and by evening, you can be very happy.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't get into any new activities during the daytime, but can expand some in the afternoon. Your intuition is on target.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be very particular about any business affairs you handle today and then tonight, be most charming with a loved one.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Some association matter could be annoying during the daytime, but take it easy and tonight things work out.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have to be conscientious in handling business affairs and avoid any problems that could arise otherwise.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Forget that extragavant spending for pleasure during the daytime and later you can get something worthwhile accomplished.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Find better ways of establishing harmony at home and be more affectionate with kin. Enjoy pleasant company.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Fine day to get all those boring tasks handled and then in the afternoon you can be with fascinating friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Try to avoid adding to expenses today and be more economical. Handle correspondence in the evening.

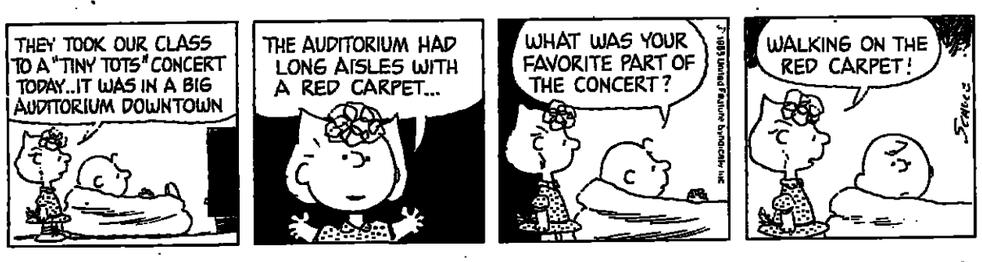
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your personal affairs are not going as you wish, so turn to something else that you can handle efficiently.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Worry will not drive away that problem, so do something constructive about it. Your mate is not in a good mood.

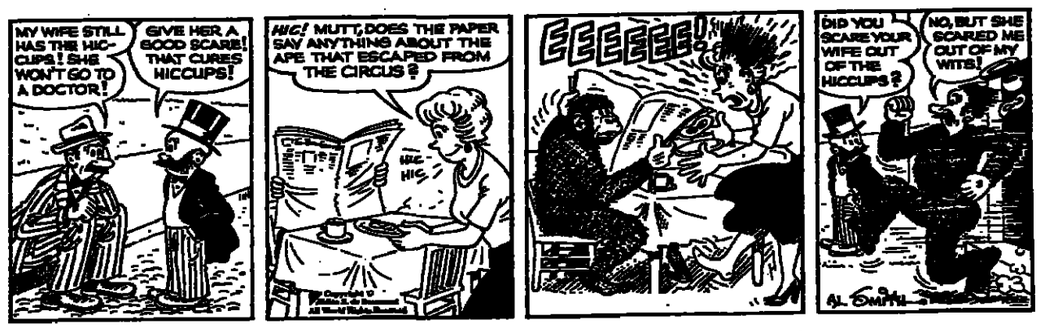
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Avoid that friend who likes to monopolize your time and make you feel nervous. Be with someone you like this evening.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she can easily comprehend the woes of mankind and should have the education slanted along the lines of alleviating such problems and a fine career can be enjoyed during the lifetime. One to whom learning is easy.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF® By Harris



"Today's mail...5,000 gas bills and 5,000 apologies for a computer malfunction."

THE Daily Crossword by James R. Burns

ACROSS
1 Forbidden
5 Comedian Bean
10 Pequod's skipper
14 Actor Richard
15 Relative of beano
16 Hidden spy
17 Affectations
18 Hearing aid of old
20 Desolate
22 Attitudes
23 Corrods
24 Denominations
27 Waco university
30 Article
31 Send off
35 Mischievous child
36 — Antilles
38 Musical ending
39 Food
41 Is ambitious
43 Soybean product
44 More caustic
45 Writer Hentoff
47 Greatly impressed
48 Turk. title
49 "— in Arms" (Roberts)
51 F and G
53 Sesame
54 Coffee or stew
58 Hiking tyro's condition
62 Tattoo and reveille
65 Offshoot
66 — of Man
67 Open spaces
68 Make over
69 Wall support
70 Iraqi port
71 Smelters' materials

DOWN
1 Fresh-water duck
2 Exchange premium
3 Sheriff Andy Taylor's deputy
4 Break open
5 Oil prefix
6 Ranges freely
7 Roads
8 Baseball Mel
9 Correlative
10 Shot and shell
11 Social dances
12 Away from wind
13 Stakes
19 Raises
21 Crept quietly
25 Defraud
26 More concise
27 Blessed woman
28 Grant as true
29 Kind of car
31 School subj.
32 Forester mariner
33 Model
34 Fake jewelry
37 Produce
40 Kids' pie ingredient
42 Brooklyn institute
45 Gentleman burglar
50 Smell tavern
51 Guevara
52 Kind of energy
54 Sacred bird of Egypt
55 Reddish-brown
56 Ice house: var.
57 Polar vehicle
59 Mythical Gr. mountain
60 Lift
61 Selves
63 Hackney
64 Macaw

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

S	C	A	M	P		G	O	A	D		T	I	K	I	
E	R	R	O	R		R	U	L	E		U	S	E	D	
T	O	N	T	O		I	T	A	L		R	E	V	I	
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S	A	L	O	M	E		S	T	E	V	E				
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L	A	W	N		C	O	S	T		B	L	A	I	R	E
E	T	A	L		A	N	O	N		L	A	S	E	R	
P	O	N	Y		N	A	N	O		E	N	T	E	R	

JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

THYIC

MOCTE

FACSIO

PORTSY



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A "___ - ___"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: UNITY FOIST OPAQUE SPLICE
Answer: What a wisecracker does—FLIPS QUIPS

Belgium approves deployment of 16 U.S. nuclear missiles

BRUSSELS (R) — Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said in a prepared statement to parliament Friday Belgium has approved the immediate deployment of 16 new U.S. nuclear missiles in its territory.

His announcement ended five years of uncertainty whether or when Belgium would honour its commitment to site the cruise missiles as part of a NATO plan to counter Soviet SS-20 missiles in Europe, officials said.

Earlier Belgian Defence Minister Freddy Vreven told reporters after a crisis meeting of the cabinet late Thursday night: "Belgium's commitments will be respected."

The missiles were due to have been installed by Friday under a 1979 NATO plan to deploy medium-range missiles in five West European nations.

But the issue of whether to deploy deeply divided Belgians and caused severe tensions in the four-party centre-right coalition government of Prime Minister Wilfried Martens.

Mr. Martens said Thursday night the decision of the cabinet had been unanimous but it would not be formally announced until parliament had been informed later Friday. Sources close to the government said the missiles were likely to start arriving soon.

Of the five West European states due to deploy only the Netherlands has still not decided whether to go ahead.

An anti-nuclear wing of Mr. Martens Social Christian Party had held up the decision on deployment while the rest of the party and the three other coalition partners had been pressing for immediate siting of the weapons.

The government faces a confidence vote on Monday which could still go against it if members of Mr. Martens' Flemish party defect and vote with the opposition Socialists to underline their objections to the missile deployment and also to budget austerity.

But even if this led to the collapse of the government, which has a six-seat majority, deployment would go ahead and a new government would find it hard to get rid of the missiles, political sources said.

The missile decision will be presented to parliament as part of a package of measures which includes government savings worth $500 million to keep the budget on target, income tax cuts and anti-poverty plans.



SCIENTIFIC TOUR: Mrs. Susanne Mubarak (right), wife of President Hosni Mubarak as she tours the science museum in London Friday during a three-day visit to London (AP wirephoto)

S. Africa denies bail to 8 opponents

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — A court denied bail Friday to eight leading opponents of apartheid three days after the United Nations Security Council condemned South Africa for charging them with treason.

Eight other defendants in the case had previously lost bail applications. The government still has not said publicly what they are charged with.

In South Africa, one can be imprisoned while under investigation or if authorities suspect one might be likely to violate a law. Police do not have to say why or whether someone has been detained.

The eight who were denied bail Friday are members of the United Democratic Front (UDF), a multi-racial coalition opposed to the system in which 5 million whites dominate and deny the vote to 22 million blacks.

Among the accused appearing before Durban regional court Magistrate T.L. Blunden was Albertina Sisulu, 66, an internationally-known opponent of apartheid. Her husband, Walter, is serving a life sentence for trying to overthrow the white government.

Mr. Blunden rejected arguments by Defence lawyer Ishmail Muhammad, who said the arrest warrants did not specify what allegedly treasonous act the accused had committed. Mr. Blunden said the law did not demand this.

Others in court were the Rev. Frank Chikane, 34, social worker Cassim Saloojee, 49, mathematics instructor Ismail Muhammad, 54, and trade unionists Sisa Njikalani, 29, Sam Kikine, 36, Isaac Ngcobo, 36, and Thozimile Gaweta. All are black, except for Saloojee, who is classified as Asian — of Indian descent.

On Tuesday, the Security Council called on South Africa to withdraw the charges. The government responded that the arrests reflected police work and not politics.

It was the first time under the administration of President Ronald Reagan that the United States joined in the world body's condemnation. The United States under Mr. Reagan has friendly relations with South Africa and previously abstained from U.N. denunciations of this country.

No trial date has been set for the apartheid opponents, and Nobel Peace Laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu has wondered aloud if authorities hoped to use drawn-out court procedures to keep opposition leaders locked up.

Castro denies rift with Moscow

NEW YORK (AP) — Cuban President Fidel Castro denied in an interview that his failure to attend the funeral of Soviet party chief Konstantin U. Chernenko was a sign of strain in relations with the Soviet Union, the CBS Television Network reported Friday.

Mr. Castro made the remarks during a six-hour interview in Havana with Dan Rather that was concluded Friday morning, the Television Network said.

The Cuban leader "says he is not miffed with the Soviets and not in a pique of any kind, that his decision about not going to Moscow wasn't a signal," Rather said. Mr. Castro said Cuba's relationship with the Soviet Union was never better, CBS said.

Official announcements in the Cuban Communist Party newspaper Granma and on Radio Havana International earlier this week offered no explanation why Mr. Castro instead sent his brother Raul, the vice president and defence minister, to represent Cuba in paying last respects to Mr. Chernenko at Wednesday's funeral.

Fidel Castro went to Moscow for the burials of the previous two Soviet presidents — Leonid Brezhnev in 1982 and Yuri Andropov last year.

After Mr. Chernenko's death was announced Monday, President Castro issued a statement praising the Soviet leader as a great defender of Socialism and worker for world peace.

Some observers had suggested that Fidel Castro's failure to go to the funeral might be a signal to Moscow. A foreign diplomat in Havana, insisting on anonymity, noted that Mr. Castro also stayed away from last year's economic summit of Communist-Bloc nations in Moscow and said Mr. Castro appeared to be trying to assert his independence from the Soviet Union.

Thailand will hit hard at Vietnamese but will not cross border, general says

SURIN, Thailand (Agencies) — A top Thai army commander warned Friday that Thai forces will take "fiercer measures", against any Vietnamese intruding into Thailand from Kampuchea, but added that Thai forces will not cross the border to fight.

Lt.-Gen. Pisit Hemabutr, commander of the Second Army region, had told a news conference in Surin Thursday that it was not enough for Thai forces to drive the Vietnamese back into Kampuchea. In the future, Thai forces would have to "expand the area of fighting," he said.

The Associated Press asked Col. Pichai Siripibool, deputy chief of civilian affairs at Surin's Surannaree Field Force, to contact Gen. Pisit at the Second Army region headquarters in Korat and ask him to clarify his remarks. Gen. Pisit returned to Korat after Thursday's tour of the Surin area, where Thai forces have recently duelled with Vietnamese intruders.

Col. Pichai quoted Gen. Pisit as saying: "If Vietnam, who we consider a friendly nation, does not show any intention of being our friend and instead wants to continue its aggressive acts like an enemy, we will be compelled to use fiercer measures to teach Vietnam a lesson...

"However, any military actions (by Thailand) will be confined to Thai territory. We never intend to go over the border line."

In a protest note delivered Thursday to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Thai Foreign Ministry charged that Vietnamese troops backed by "heavy and continuous" cross-border artillery shelling made a series of incursions into Surin province from March 5 to March 11.

Thai military officers said Hanoi's forces intruded to encircle Tatum, the base of Kampuchean resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Tatum fell to Hanoi's assault on Monday.

The fighting in the area of the incursion has subsidised since Tuesday, but Gen. Pisit told the Thursday news conference that "no more than 200 Vietnamese" remained five to seven kilometres inside Thailand.

He said clashes with the Vietnamese in Surin have left 14 Thai soldiers dead and 105 wounded. The bodies of 135 Vietnamese troops have been found in the area of three strategic hills Hanoi's force tried to seize, he said.

The protest note charged that Vietnamese cross-border shelling from March 5 to March 10 killed two Thai villagers and displaced more than 7,500 inhabitants of Sangkha, Bua Ched and Kab Chern districts.

It also charged that 100 Vietnamese troops on March 4 crossed into Sisaket's Kantharalak district about 10 kilometres from the border and captured 62 Thais working in the field. Vietnamese soldiers killed 11 villagers who tried to escape, along with five Thai soldiers who tried to rescue the villagers, the note charged.

Meanwhile, to the south of Surin, Thai military sources said Friday that Vietnam recently has moved reinforcements in place for another round of attacks on guerrillas of another major Kampuchean resistance group.

The Bangkok Post newspaper reported Thursday that the Thai government will keep Supreme Commander Gen. Arthit Kamlang-Ek on active duty for one year beyond his scheduled mandatory retirement in September.

The English-language daily quoted authoritative sources as saying Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prem Tinsulanonda had signed an order extending Gen. Arthit's term as supreme commander and commander-in-chief of the army.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the report.

Gen. Arthit, who turns 60 in August, has been widely tipped as a possible successor to Mr. Prem.

Nicaraguan rebels get new missiles

ON THE NICARAGUAN-HONDURAN BORDER (R) — Nicaraguan rebels have acquired several surface-to-air missiles to counter Soviet helicopters operated by the Nicaraguan army, their military commander said.

Enrique Bermudez, commander of the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), told reporters the missiles were small, portable and could be fired from a bazooka.

He declined to specify what type they were, how many the FDN had, where they had been obtained or who had paid for them.

He was speaking at the FDN's field headquarters in a jungle area along the Nicaraguan-Honduran border to reporters taken there on condition they did not reveal its location.

"We would be fools if we did not to do something to fight back against the Soviet helicopters, which could really hurt us," Mr. Bermudez said. "We will use the missiles as soon as the Sandinists deploy the helicopters."

FDN chief Adolfo Calero, who lives in Miami, said in November that Nicaragua had received 12 Soviet MI-24 Hind helicopters, which have been described as flying tanks and are regarded as highly effective anti-guerrilla weapons. Mr. Calero said Soviet forces in Afghanistan had used MI-24s to obliterate entire villages.

Washington, which accuses Managua of arming left-wing guerrillas in Central America with Soviet Bloc weapons, has financed, trained and armed the FDN and other guerrilla forces fighting to overthrow Nicaragua's Sandinist government.

However, the U.S. Congress suspended funds to the rebels, known as Contras, last year after their activities caused international controversy. Since then they have relied on private groups and other sympathetic countries for support.

Hostages held by Filipino rebels reportedly in good health

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Acting Armed Forces Chief Lt.-Gen. Fidel Ramos denied Friday that the military has mounted operations to rescue by force three foreign hostages who have been held for months by Muslim separatist rebels in the southern Philippines.

Gen. Ramos told a news conference that as far as he knew, American John Robinow, West German Helmuth Herbst and Japanese Shigehiro Ishikawa were "still alive and in fairly good health" and local officials were continuing negotiations for their release.

Robinow, who is from New York City, and his friend Herbst, of Munich, were kidnapped by guerrillas of the Moro National Liberation Front on Jolo Island last Nov. 19. Two months later the guerrillas abducted Ishikawa, a native of Japan's Hyuga City.

Authorities said Ishikawa, a freelance photographer, had gone to Jolo, 944 kilometres south of Manila, to attempt to photograph Robinow and Herbst in captivity.

"There have been reports very recently about so-called massive military efforts to recover these kidnap victims by force," Gen. Ramos said. "This has been misunderstood, I think ... our main efforts is still negotiations through peaceful means."

Military forces on Jolo have been conducting "low-level patrol-types of operations" during the past two weeks to prevent other rebels from moving into the area where the three hostages are being held and negotiations are going on, Gen Ramos said.

He added that the arrival in the area of other rebels "could upset the arrangements and create further problems."

Foreign Ministry officials and Islamic diplomats were also helping the negotiations, and the military was in constant touch with them, Gen. Ramos said.

The kidnappers initially demanded a ransom of $25,000 for Robinow and Herbst but dropped the demand after the U.S. and West German embassies rejected it.

Soviets deploy 414 SS-20s, U.S. says

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union has deployed another 18 SS-20 missiles, raising the total to 414, Pentagon officials have said.

Richard Burt, assistant secretary of state for European affairs, disclosed the new number to a meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) special consultative group in Brussels earlier this week, they said.

Officials in Washington said the higher total was reached when two Soviet bases were activated with nine missile launchers each. The sites of the new units were not disclosed.

Mr. Burt reported to the group as U.S. and Soviet negotiators were opening talks in Geneva to try to find ways to reduce the number of medium-range missiles based in Europe.

The United States is deploying Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in five Western European nations to counter the new Soviet missiles.

Mr. Burt has said in the past that the Soviet Union planned to deploy as many as 500 triple-warhead SS-20s. U.S. plans are to deploy 572 single-warhead Pershing and cruise missiles.

Brazil's president-elect undergoes surgery

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — President-Elect Tancredo Neves underwent emergency surgery early Friday, hours before his inauguration as the country's first civilian president in 21 years, and the government decided to swear in only the vice president.

Outside the hospital where Mr. Neves was reported to be in satisfactory condition after intestinal surgery, press spokesman Antonio Britto said vice president-elect Jose Sarney, a 54-year-old lawyer, politician and author, would become "interim president" of Brazil.

The constitution allows Mr. Neves, a 75-year-old centrist opposition political leader, 10 days to claim his post as chief executive.

"President-Elect Neves is in favourable condition and might leave the hospital today, Friday, "Mr. Britto said.

Elaborate inauguration festivities, including a "victory caravan" through the capital and a samba-backed "joy and democracy party," were canceled.

Mr. Britto said Mr. Sarney would take the oath of office as vice president in Congress and then go to the Planal to Presidential Palace, two blocks away, to swear in cabinet ministers already named by Mr. Neves.

Later in the day, foreign delegations from more than 100 countries — including several Latin American presidents and U.S. Vice President George Bush — were to pay compliments to the new vice president.

The outgoing military president, Gen. Joao Figueiredo, would not present the traditional green-and-yellow sash of office to Mr. Sarney, Mr. Britto said. It was expected that Mr. Neves would don the sash upon his recovery.

Doctors said Mr. Neves, who was rushed to Brasilia's military base hospital Thursday night, was operated on for an "acute abdominal condition" diagnosed as diverticulitis, an ailment of the small intestine.

Mr. Sarney was instrumental in getting Mr. Neves elected as president, following a string of five generals who governed Latin America's biggest country following a 1964 right-wing military coup.

Until last year, Mr. Sarney was the head of the military regime's official Social Democratic Party. That party was supposed to control an electoral college that would give rubber stamp approval to the man chosen by the administration to succeed Gen. Figueiredo.

But popular opposition to the generals and the system they implanted grew rapidly. Mr. Sarney and other government-party members crossed over to Mr. Neves, a leader of the opposition Brazilian Democratic Movement Party.

Five of Mr. Neves' cabinet ministers — including outgoing Vice President Aureliano Chaves — are former affiliates of the military-backed party.

Tamil leader says action by India is inevitable

MADRAS, India (R) — Sri Lanka's main Tamil political leader believes intervention by India is inevitable to solve the island's ethnic crisis.

Appapillai Amirthalingam, secretary general of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), said the split between Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese and minority Tamil communities was destabilising the South Asian region.

Sri Lanka is involved in a guerrilla war with Tamil militants wanting a separate state in the north and east of the island. Tamil leaders have charged Sri Lankan security forces with a number of atrocities during the war leading to a flight of refugees to India.

"Indian intervention will become inevitable if the present situation in Sri Lanka continues," Mr. Amirthalingam told reporters here.

He suggested India might take action similiar to its intervention during the turmoil between East and West Pakistan when Indian troops crossed into East Pakistan leading to the creation of Bangladesh.

Mr. Amirthalingam said refugees were becoming a problem for India and it needed to create a situation to allow them to return home.

Asked if Indian action against Sri Lanka would set off superpower rivalry he said the United States and other nations were unlikely to get involved in the issue.

"I don't think the Western powers are interested in creating another Vietnam," Mr. Amirthalingam said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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TOO MANY HIGH CARDS!

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10 3
♡ A 9 6 2
◇ A Q 10 9 2
♣ K

WEST
♠ 6 4
♡ 7 4
◇ 8 7 5
♣ Q J 9 8 3 2

EAST
♠ 9 5
♡ K Q 10 5 3
◇ K J 4
♣ 10 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 8 7 2
♡ J 8
◇ 6 3
♣ A 7 6

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ◇	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	5 ♡	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Seven of ♡.

Most of us grumble chronically about the bad cards we hold. When this hand was over, East could complain that he held too many high cards.

North's jump to four clubs was a splinter bid showing the values for game and a singleton club. That stirred South enough for him to make a club-cue-bid, and the spade slam was soon reached.

East might have made life easy for his partner by doubling the five heart cue-bid, but West found the lead anyway. Declarer was Richard Popper of Wilmington, Del., and he would have preferred any other lead. He was reluctant to have to rely on the diamond finesse for his slam, so he won the ace of hearts, cashed the king of clubs and crossed to hand with the jack of trumps. After ruffing his low club, he overtook the king of spades and proceeded to run trumps.

He reduced dummy to four diamonds and East, who had been having some trouble finding discards, kept the king of hearts and three diamonds. When declarer cashed the ace of clubs, East was forced to discard a diamond, for he had to keep his king of hearts to cover declarer's jack.

Reading the position perfectly, declarer exited with his heart. East was forced to win and lead away from his king of diamonds into the table's ace-queen tenace.

Just another everyday slam had come home!

Bangladesh closes 3 more colleges

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Three more government-controlled colleges in Bangladesh were closed indefinitely beginning Thursday, the English-language daily, the New Nation reported.

The paper, quoting authorities of the colleges, said students were asked to vacate residential hostels immediately.

Earlier reports said all colleges in the south eastern port city of Chittagong were closed, as well as the country's six universities and six medical collges, because of troubles on campus.

Marcos dismisses fears of Communist victory

MANILA (R) — President Ferdinand Marcos has rejected a suggestion by a U.S. defence official that Communist rebels could take over the Philippines within the next five years.

Mr. Marcos said in a statement his government had taken social, political and economic initiatives to combat the growing insurgency. He also said the army was employing more successful tactics against the rebels.

Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Armitage has told a congressional committee that without substantial U.S. assistance, the Philippine military might be unable to defeat the Communist New Peoples' Army (NPA).

Mr. Armitage also said the army alone could not defeat the rebels and basic political and economic reforms were necessary to erode the injustices which fed the insurgency.

In a statement released by the presidential palace, Mr. Marcos said developments in the field indicated the military was beginning to reverse the trend, successfully raiding guerrilla camps and inflicting more casualties.

He also refered to a one-billion peso ($50 million) aid programme to deliver basic services to remote regions where the insurgency thrives.

Mr. Marcos said the military had defeated the Communists in the 1950s and had faced left-wing rebels and Muslim separatists in the early 1970s.

"With the recent developments in the countryside it is our intention that with the funds that are made available by the American government under the military bases agreement or under any arrangement that can be worked out, it would not be difficult to repeat the victories of the Philippine military achieved against all kinds of insurgency" Mr. Marcos said.

The Reagan administration is asking Congress to approve just over $100 million next year in military aid to the Philippines, where the United States maintains two major bases.

Mr. Armitage said the NPA strength could be as high as 15,000, with the rebels supported by up to one million people in the countryside.

Mr. Armitage was one of a number of senior U.S. officials who visited Manila recently for talks with Mr. Marcos and other members of the Philippine government on the security situation and U.S. aid.

Assistant Secretary of State Paul Wolfowitz, who was here in January, told the congressional committee the Reagan administration was "using all the influence we have to encourage reform".

He said the conduct of the trial of Armed Forces Chief Gen. Fabian Ver, accused with 25 other of complicity in the 1983 murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino, was crucial to Washington's relations with Manila.

Acting Armed Forces Chief, Lt-Gen. Fidel Ramos, said meanwhile the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which is fighting for a separate Muslim state in the southern Philippines, was now incapable of mounting large-scale attacks.

Gen. Ramos, quoted by the official Philippine News Agency Thursday, said the MNLF was at its peak in 1975-76 but in the past few years thousands of supporters had laid down their guns. Only sporadic skirmishes between MNLF and government forces took place, he added.

COLUMN 10

Korean court orders death for killer

SEOUL (R) — A Seoul appeals court has imposed the death sentence on a man originally sentenced to life imprisonment for hacking a relative to death with a spade and dumping the body in a mountain ditch. Yun Do-Yong, 32, admitted accidentally killing his wife's brother last May during a violent quarrel over the repayment of a loan, but pleaded not guilty to the charge of premeditated murder. The court noted it was rare for a South Korean higher court to increase a criminal sentence, but said Yun must hang because he did not repent for "the matchlessly heinous crime." Yun's lawyers said they would appeal to the supreme court against the verdict.

Indians shocked by attempted suttee

NEW DELHI (R) — Indians were shocked by newspaper reports of an attempted "suttee", the ancient but outlawed practice of a widow joining her husband on his funeral pyre, which was prevented only by the quick thinking of a young policeman. The Hindustan Times newspaper, in a front-page report, said about 50,000 people gathered at a village cremation ground in the western desert state of Rajasthan and eagerly waited for flames to consume a 45-year-old widow. The police officer saved her by suggesting that if the widow was indeed a suttee, or virtuous wife, the pyre would light itself. For more than two hours Jaswant Kanwar, in her wedding finery, cradled her husband's body in her lap and waited in vain for the first flame to appear. The delay gave police time to rush reinforcements to the area. They fired in the air and used teargas to save the woman and disperse the crowd which stoned them as they fought their way to the pyre, the Hindustan times reported.

Thyssen asks ex-wife to return ring

LONDON (R) — Baron Henri Von Thyssen, one of the world's richest men, wants his ex-wife to return $77 million worth of jewellery including her engagement ring, a court was told. Lawyers for his fourth wife, Baroness Denise Thyssen, told London's appeal court that the 63-year-old Swiss nobleman regarded the $500,000 ring as "investment jewellery". The 44-year-old Brazilian-born baroness, who divorced Thyssen last year, is suing for provision for herself and their son, Alexander, 10, with whom she lives in Zurich. The couple's financial dispute is to be fought out in the high court later this year but the baroness sought an order forcing her ex-husband to disclose details of his wealth. Thomas Scott Baker, counsel for the baroness, said the baron, who put his income at $10 million a year, wanted the ring and other jewellery which he valued at $77 million, plus their $4.5 million New York apartment.

11 prisoners shot dead in jailbreak

SAO PAULO (R) — Eleven prisoners were shot dead while trying to escape from a prison in Brazilian town of Sorocaba, 120 Kilometres west of Sao Paulo, police said. Guards opened fire as 15 prisoners who had tunnelled under an outer fence just before dawn were fleeing towards surrounding woodland. Four succeeded in escaping but the others were killed, a police spokesman said. He said the guards had had no option but to open fire. Sao Paulo State Security Secretary Michel Temer told local television that the prisoners were armed with knives and had turned on the wardens.

Chinese auditors find 'irregularities'

PEKING (R) — Chinese auditing offices uncovered "irregularities" totalling 3.34 billion yuan ($1.3 billion) in 1984, the Workers' Daily has said. About 1.6 billion yuan ($570 million) was related to excessive operations costs, unreported profits, fake losses, tax evasions and issuing of goods to employees, the New China News Agency (NCNA) quoted the newspaper as saying. The rest was overspending of funds, rising operational costs and accounting errors, it said. Of the total, 590 million yuan ($207 million) will be handed over to state finance offices, it said. The report coincided with the publication of speeches by senior Communist Party officials denouncing corruption among leading officials.